Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-051 *14 March 1996*

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Sharm al-Shaykh Peacemakers Summit

Peacemakers Summit: 'Arafat Delivers Address

JN1303121596 Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic 1042 GMT 13 Mar 96

[Speech by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, at the summit in Sharm al-Shaykh on 13 March—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Your Excellency Bill Clinton, President of the United States of America and sponsor of the peace conference; Your Excellency Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, sponsor of the peace conference; Your Majesty King Hasan II, chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference and the Jerusalem Committee; Your Majesty King Husayn; President Demirel; European presidents—President Chirac, Chancellor Kohl; prime ministers of Britain, Norway, Italy, Canada, and Ireland; the Japanese representative; my Arab brothers; Your Excellency the UN Secretary General; Ladies and Gentlemen:

In an unprecedented occurrence in our contemporary history, a great gathering of world leaders is meeting for the second time within a few months. The first was after the assassination of a great man who offered his life for the sake of peace; namely, our late partner Yitzhaq Rabin; and the second is today, following a series of criminal attacks that ended the lives of dozens of Israelis, as well as some Palestinians, Americans, and Romanians. Once again we are drowned in the whirlpool of violence and terrorism. The aim of the rush to hold the two gatherings was to direct a firm, clear message to the killers. The message is that if they are able to kill great leaders and peacemakers, such as Yitzhaq Rabin, and innocent citizens going about their ordinary daily life, their criminal success is temporary, because they cannot kill peace or assassinate the will of the region and the world to build the edifice of a firm and permanent peace.

I am one of those who lived through the phases of the continuing tragedy and violence in our country and the region. Today, and despite the deep wound that has been inflicted on us all, I am hopeful and confident that there is determination to protect peace. By this meeting of yours, I and my partner, Mr. Shim'on Peres, feel that we are not alone, that the powerful will of the world stands by us until we complete the march. We are not alone because the callers for extremism and the enemies of peace are an isolated and condemned minority among the Israelis, the Palestinians, in the region and the world. We are not alone because each leader here carries a message with profound substance; namely, that peace in our region has special significance in addition to its global and comprehensive significance.

Today, I am here to convey the determination of the Palestinian people, who took to the streets shouting slogans against violence and in support of peace, that we are confronting and will continue to confront terrorism and to uproot it from our land because our dream of freedom, independence, and self-determination cannot bear fruit and be realized amid a sea of blood and tears but by perseverance in confronting this terrorism and these extremist and dangerous wings of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the [Islamic] Jihad.

At the same time, I tell our Israeli neighbors that our will must be united today more than ever before so that violence and terrorism will become part of the past which we renounce, and to make peace based on justice, equality, and the brotherhood of man the only future for all of us, for our children and for your children, for our mothers and your mothers, for every man and woman who live on this holy land; and for all of us, the children of Abraham.

From this rostrum, and as a devout Muslim, I frankly tell the faithful masses in this region and the world that the Almighty and Omnipotent God, who gave his three divine messages to all mankind, prohibited violence, and ordered that a man may not kill himself or others. God considers all those who call for murder to be contravening the will and law of God, as well as the worldly laws and conventions. The esteemed men of religion who represent man's conscience and preach the heavenly messages against using violence and terrorism as a means of solving mankind's political, ethnic, and social problems, must raise their voices.

Ladies and gentlemen, our joint desire to safeguard peace and to deny the enemies of peace any opportunity makes us more determined to follow up all the procedures and strict measures that we have taken and the collective action to stand against terrorism and cut off its external links and its centers of power in the area around us, and speed up the steps of peace without any delay. Hence, your support and assistance to us to achieve this objective and to embark on completing the implementation of the Oslo agreements signed in Washington under the aegis of President Clinton and in Cairo under the aegis of President Mubarak, cosponsored by Russian President Yeltsin and supported by the EU, Japan, peace-loving countries, and the United Nations, and also the immediate start of the final-status negotiations are the best that can be done to destroy the dreams and schemes of the plotters against peace.

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leadership fully denounce terrorism and struggle against it.

Third, I believe that the basic issue today is the Syrian and Israeli inclination to achieve a peaceful settlement. A few days ago, I proposed the convening of a Madrid-type conference, Madrid-2. Let us not rush to make a final assessment of this proposal. Is the idea in itself not [word indistinct]? Perhaps after some time, and after preliminary preparations, we will call for a mini-Madrid conference at the foreign ministers' level, on a limited scope in Moscow or somewhere else, to see what the future objectives will be.

Fourth, the Russian Federation believes that we will receive positive results if we take into consideration the efforts of the [words indistinct] and the relentless struggle against terrorism. We can, indeed we must, establish a strategy and take specific measures for the struggle against the acts of violence, which have horrible repercussions every time, not only in the Middle East, but worldwide. Regrettably, this evil has not spared Russia. A group of thieves is seeking to distort the peaceful life of our country and some CIS countries. The criminal forces of [Chechen leader] Dudayev are terrorizing cities and occupying hospitals. The gangs are involved in highway robberies, oppression, and usurpation. The organizers of terrorist operations against peaceful residents now call themselves freedom fighters. But they are carrying death, anguish, fear, and slavery.

Terrorism is terrorism everywhere. Cooperation against it must be at an international level. Here, we cannot practice double standards. It is necessary to coordinate common efforts by exchanging information on the ways and means of terrorism, by cooperating and agreeing to provide every needed assistance, and by exchanging expertise among the groups that combat terror. Terrorists must also not be offered shelter, as they use it to regroup and carry out new killings. We must consider any [word indistinct] operation to finance groups and individuals a crime linked to terrorism. Here, the United Nations and the international judiciary must be referred to.

Terrorism is not a national or religious phenomenon. It cannot be dealt with by a single state. Terrorists are criminals, and we must agree that they will be arrested in all countries, irrespective of the time that has passed since their crimes were perpetrated. I am sure that the battle against terrorism will succeed only when there are no longer any supporters for them in our countries or outside our borders. I would like to address political leaders, parties of all persuasions, journalists, and citizens of all countries. Each of them should ask himself and others: Do they accept, in the name of any political objectives, killing or threatening to kill peaceful and innocent people, including old men, women, and children? Do they believe that the ethical position can be summed up in only watching the acts of terrorists wherever they are committed? The only answer to these simple questions is no, no.

Esteemed heads of states and governments, since time immemorial, the land of the Middle East has been sacred. The Sinai mountain is not far from here. There, the 10 Commandments that determine the eternal laws dictated by spiritual life were revealed. I sincerely hope that our meeting will help us come closer to these laws in our actual policies and will lead to a more peaceful and more developed life in the Middle East and everywhere. I thank you for listening. [applause]

Peacemakers Summit: Saudi Foreign Minister Addresses Summit

NC1303152096 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1214 GMT 13 Mar 96

[Speech by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal at the opening session of summit in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers and peace be on the most noble prophet and messenger, our Prophet Muhammad, the messenger of peace.

Your Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Your Excellency President Bill Clinton, Your Excellency President Boris Yeltsin, your majesties, your excellencies, your highnesses, and esteemed heads and members of delegations:

At the beginning of my speech, I would like to convey to you the greetings and wishes of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. He honored me by allowing me to represent my country at this important meeting which deals with an issue that occupies our utmost interest, thoughts, and concern at this critical and sensitive phase in the region's history.

The significance of our meeting today lies in the fact that it clearly expresses the commitment of all of us to peace and our absolute concern to work toward removing all impediments and obstacles to peace. The reasons for holding our meeting today have been self-evident in every link in the chain of violence that has swept the region in the past.

As we were unanimous when the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre occurred in Hebron in the occupied West Bank in condemning the acts of violence at the international

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the Hebron tragedy before that. Today, it is time for us to move firmly and determinedly. The measures which the Israeli and Palestinian authorities took must be implemented without sluggishness or weakness, within a framework of close cooperation based on mutual confidence. We announce that we are ready to provide definitive and tangible assistance to the security services of the two sides.

Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat announced that foreign elements were involved in those recent incidents. If this is proved beyond doubt, then it will be necessary to study this and draw all relevant conclusions. Likewise, the world community cannot accept the irresponsible statements that incite killing. Terrorism must unequivocally be condemned by all states.

Our second objective is to proceed with and strengthen the peace process. The fanatics' basic target, through the victims that fell, was peace. Despite the huge progress made since the Madrid conference, the peace process is still weak and threatened. We have to make every possible effort to boost and entrench the achievements and encourage the implementation of the agreements signed between Israel and Jordan and Israel and the Palestinian Authority pending the resumption of the negotiations. We also have to avoid any measure that may be viewed as a retreat. And above all, we have to express our hope that the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks make big and clear strides forward. Let us all commit ourselves to exerting every necessary effort to make 1996 the year in which peace is completed between Israel and all its neighbors. Let us all prove, through our support for the Middle East leaders who are making history, that the peace process is irreversible.

Peace passes through the door of economic development. It will not be established in the hearts unless the people sense its benefits and significance. The world community, therefore, must increase its development aid to the region, primarily to the Palestinian territory. The European Union, especially France, made huge contributions in this regard, notably during the conference on aid for Palestinians, which was held in Paris.

We, then, have to speed up the extension of this aid. France and President 'Arafat will on Sunday [17 March] sign the financial support agreement for 1996. But we must hope and look forward to a broader support by the main donor states. As the current chairman of the group of the seven states that are sitting around the table today, I propose that our next summit in Leon in June be concerned with extending a special call in this regard. Finally, I would like to salute the partners to peace: Mr. Rabin, whose memory I greet; His Excellency President Mubarak, who is hosting us here today; His Majesty King Husayn; His Majesty King Hassan II; Mr. Shim'on Peres; and Chairman 'Arafat. Their courage and determination, in addition, of course, to our relentless support, will make possible what yesterday was impossible—peace in the Middle East. Thank you. [applause]

Peacemakers Summit: German Chancellor Kohl Addresses Summit

NC1303172596 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1143 GMT 13 Mar 96

[Speech by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at summit in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt—live; in German, with superimposed Arabic translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] Your excellencies. We were shocked by what happened and realized that this represented a grave danger to the continuation of the peace process in the Middle East. At this hour, I would like to tell my friends in Israel that we feel deep sorrow over what happened and therefore we share your sorrows over the victims killed in these inhuman terrorist actions.

I declare from this conference that the peace process which Israel and the PLO have started must reach its objective and achieve comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. We have in fact no other option other than to proceed with the peace process to the end because a failure to reach peace will bring destruction, not only for the Middle East, but for all of us.

I would like to tell all those who are trying to sabotage the peace process that we are determined to fight and oppose them. I would like to declare my support to all those sponsoring the peace process in this region. I stress to them that we support them in their fight against the enemies of peace and that we support Egypt and the other countries sponsoring the peace process and those who are fighting terrorism courageously and boldly. We as Germans extend our hand to the efforts to bolster the peace process and we are ready immediately and at any time to do so. We will work to give support and backing to the peace process because we cannot stand and let the peace process face dangers and threats. It is very clear that we will rally together without any reservations in order to confront terrorism and terrorists and we will take measures to deter them.

The peace process is a common objective and our common cause. Our objective must certainly be to inflict defeat on the enemies of peace. Hence, the PLO and Israel should proceed with the peace process. I believe that it is the duty of both sides to fight terrorism.

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indifferent, because countries may be legally limited in what they can do, because countries may use terrorism to advance their aims. Because the media give terrorists the publicity they seek; because drugs and terror are globally linked; because unilateral and even bilateral original action is not enough to deal with a threat that is global.

The UN is the forum where a foundation for global action is being built. At the very first ever summit of Security Council members in 1992, and in a special commemorative session of the General Assembly in 1995, heads of states and governments agreed to act together to defeat terrorism. The nations of the world, by resolution of the General Assembly in 1994, adopted the declaration on measures to eliminate international terrorism. A concrete and comprehensive action plan.

Terrorism has been branded by the nations of the world and last January by the General Assembly of the United Nations. These commitments are important and they are global. But they are still only declarations, the task before us is to take this [word indistinct] foundation as our platform for a rapid and decisive action.

The United Nations is ready to serve this goal; ready to serve as a mechanism for mobilization on a global scale. The United Nations await your instructions. Thank you.

Peacemakers Summit: UK's John Major Addresses Summit

NC1403084096 Cairo Nile Television International in English 1153 GMT 13 Mar 96

[Speech by British Prime Minister John Major at the opening session of summit in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt — live]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Your majesties, your royal highness, presidents, prime ministers, secretary general, ministers, ladies and gentlemen: Egypt has long been a senior member of the club of Middle East peacemakers, and it seems to me entirely appropriate that we should be meeting here in Sinai, where the peace and prosperity represent one of the more significant practical achievements of the Middle East peace process over the years.

We are here today for a very simple, straightforward reason; simply, to declare our support for peace through political negotiations, our implacable opposition to the wickedness of terrorism, and to look at practical measures to carry the process forward and oppose that same terrorism.

Most of us around the table, perhaps all of us, have known the effect of terrorism at firsthand. But we are here as well because of the fullhearted support that we have for the peace process. Quite simply, we are not prepared to see recent hopes die. The Middle East has seen very remarkable progress in recent years. It has been led by exceptional and courageous men, some of them, sadly, no longer with us today. I believe that we owe it to them not to give in to those people whose sole purpose is destroying what has been created and preventing a peaceful settlement to come about. If they win, not only the Middle East peace process loses, we all lose, and who knows where the cancer might be next.

In my country, the people of the United Kingdom know something of the emotions and political difficulties involved in sustaining a process toward peace. We have only too much bitter experience of our own, and recently terrorist violence has returned to London, unjustified, unacceptable, and we reject it with contempt, and we will continue to work for a lasting settlement with all those committed to peaceful, democratic methods.

That is what has been happening in the Middle East peace process, and I warmly welcome the cooperation between President 'Arafat and Prime Minister Peres to that end. I welcome the action that President 'Arafat has taken and I urge him to persevere in that course whatever the undoubted difficulties may be that he will face. Israel alone cannot police the Palestinian areas; the only solution is full collaboration between the Palestinian and the Israeli security forces. Of course they already cooperate, and if they do more, the way, I hope, will soon be clear for present measures affecting the people of the West Bank and Gaza to be eased.

The parties need circumstances to be created in which they can return to the negotiating table as soon as possible on the Syrian as well as on the Palestinian tracks. Britain has applauded the remarkable steps forward between Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians, and we welcome the progress in talks between Israel and Syria, and that support remains complete today. We already cooperate with both Israel and the Palestinian Authority in the field of counterterrorism. We are looking urgently with them at the moment at what further practical help we may be able to offer. We will consult President 'Arafat about how we can help train further the Palestinian police force and meet the need of the Palestinians population. If by doing this we can erode the support that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] so much the better. If we can deprive them of a new breeding ground on which to work, then I think something worthwhile will have been achieved.

We all know around this table that terrorism is an international phenomenon. It thrives on international support. It often operates, as Shim'on Peres reminded us earlier today, after pariah states, and we need collectively to try and stop that. I think that the time

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fight against terrorism and bring the peace process back on track. Japan has repeatedly condemned all forms of terrorism and reaffirmed our resolve to fight against it. Or to make it clear, terrorist acts cannot be justified for any reason whatsoever, wherever it happens in the world, and that political aims must only be pursued by peaceful means. Violence intended to achieve political aims shall never be accepted by the international community.

To prevent the repetition of these acts of terror, both the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority are expected to take all measures possible to ensure the security of the people. And this terrorism is an issue reaching beyond national borders. We need international cooperation to terminate outside support for terrorism. However indignant we may be against this series of terrorist acts, we must not retreat from our undertakings to achieve peace and coexistence. We must not succumb to the pressure from these heinous acts. Since the current peace process is the only dearest choice to provide with to solve the issues in the region, Japan strongly hopes that both Israel and the Palestinians will overcome the differences they have and uphold the process.

I would also like to point out the great importance that the Israeli-Palestinian interim agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza strip, including the amendment of the Palestinian Charter, be hastily implemented to strengthen the bases of the peace process and to bring [word indistinct] a society without terrorism. Further improvement of the economic and social environment for the Palestinians with help from the international community is getting increasingly important. Japan, therefore, will be committed to undertaking various forms of assistant to the parties concerned with the peace process, including the Palestinians.

With the present situation in mind, I wish to announce that the government of Japan has just decided to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinians, with the amount of around $10 million, to encourage creating improvement. This is in addition to the assistance we have already pledged. We should keep open our contacts with each other to confront terrorism and maintain the momentum of the peace process. Japan is determined to do whatever possible to contribute to this effort. Thank you.

Peacemakers Summit: Cochairmen Clinton, Mubarak Issue Summit Statement

NC1303152996 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1421 GMT 13 Mar 96

[Statement by Joint Chairmanship of the Conference of Peacemakers issued in Sharm al-Shaykh on 13 March—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The conference of peacemakers has ended. This meeting was held at a time when the peace process was facing serious threats. The summit had three basic objectives, namely, to bolster the peace process, to promote security, and to fight terrorism.

Hence, the conferees who attended today's meeting express their full backing for the Middle East peace process and their resolve to let this process continue until a just, lasting, and comprehensive regional peace is established. They declare that they are determined to consolidate security and stability, to prevent the enemies of peace from achieving their primary objective, namely, ruining the real opportunities for peace in the Middle East. They emphasize their strong condemnation of all terrorist actions, in all their infamous forms, regardless of their motives or who their perpetrators are, including the recent terrorist attacks in Israel. They regard these actions as contravening the moral and spiritual values of all the region's nations. They reassert their determination to resist these actions with the utmost firmness and urge all governments to join them in this condemnation and stand against acts of terrorism.

To attain these objectives, we have decided:

To support the Israeli-Palestinian agreements, to see that the process of negotiations is continued and to extend political and economic assistance to it, and to consolidate the security conditions on both sides, while at the same time paying special attention to the existing economic needs of the Palestinians.

To support the continuation of the negotiations to attain a comprehensive settlement.

To work together to bolster security and stability in the region by developing effective and practical cooperative measures and extending further assistance.

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The summit of peacemakers has just concluded. This meeting took place at a time when the peace process confronts serious threats. The summit had three fundamental objectives: To enhance the peace process, to promote security, and to combat terror. Accordingly, the participants here today express their full support for the Middle East peace process and their determination that this process continue in order to accomplish a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region, affirm their determination to promote security and stability, and to prevent the enemies of peace from achieving their ultimate objectives of destroying the real opportunity for peace in the Middle East, and reemphasize their strong condemnation of all acts of terror in all its apparent forms whatever its motivation and whoever its perpetrator, including recent attacks in Israel, considering them alien to the moral and spiritual values shared by all peoples of the region; and reaffirm their intention to stand staunchly against all such acts and to urge all other governments to join them in this condemnation and opposition. To that end, we decided to support the Israeli-Palestinian agreements, the continuation of the negotiating process, and to politically and economically reinforce it to enhance the security situation for both, with special attention to the current and pressing economic needs of the Palestinians; to support the continuation of the negotiating process in order to achieve a comprehensive settlement, to work together to promote security and stability in the region by developing effective and practical means of cooperation and further assistance; to promote coordination of efforts to stop acts of terror on bilateral, regional, and international levels, ensuring instigators of such acts are brought to justice, supporting efforts by all parties to prevent their territories from being used for terrorist purposes, and preventing terrorist organizations from engaging in recruitment, supplying arms, or fund raising; to exert maximum efforts to identify and determine the sources of financing for these groups and to cooperate in cutting them off and by providing training, equipment, and other forms of support to those taking steps against groups using violence and terror to undermine peace, security, or stability. Finally, to form a working group open to all summit participants to prepare recommendations on how best to implement the decisions contained in this statement through ongoing work and to report to the participants within 30 days.

I can say that President Mubarak and I asked the participants to support an effort by the United States to coordinate an early working group meeting of all the participants here and we expect to do that within a couple of weeks. Let me just make one last point. This is a remarkable day because of the number of people from the region who came here as well as those who came from all around the world. When I leave President Mubarak and Egypt I will go to Israel with a clear message; that Israel is not alone. Now throughout the region, as well as the world, there are peacemakers who stand together against terror, for security, and for the cause of peace. The meeting today and the statements which were made in public by the leaders who were here today would have been unthinkable just a short while ago. Let me say again to President Mubarak: You, sir, deserve a large share of credit for the fact that meeting could take place, and it could have taken place in no other place than Egypt. We are grateful to you. And let me say on behalf of the United States to the people of this region who stand for peace: You can all draw courage and strength and inspiration from what we have achieved here today and what we are committed to do in the future. Thank you very much. [applause]

[Correspondent] President Mubarak and President Clinton, I have a question for the Egyptian Television and my name is Mirvat Muhsin: What is your opinion on the closure of Palestinian territories and collective punishment pursued by Israel? Has this conference come up with any decisions to safeguard innocent Palestinians as well, because certain measures were taken by Palestinians right before the conference took place? Thank you.

[Mubarak] Anyway I think that the closure is starting to be released. We have discussed this, I have discussed it with Prime Minister Peres, and it was not going to last long. They opened the gates for supplies for the people and I think this situation will not stay for a long time.

[Clinton] Yes, we discussed it and I know that there many more trucks going in today with basic supplies than yesterday. And I expect to see some changes. But if I might say, viewed through one eye this is a collective punishment, viewed through another it is an elemental security measure at a time when it is hard to tell who may be wrapped in plastique. So it is very important that this be seen as a process of strengthening our common efforts against terrorism and for security and opening the borders. Obviously, the peace cannot succeed unless the people in Gaza have a chance to flourish economically, to reap the benefits of peace. And it is clear that peace and security are two sides of the same coin, not only for the Israelis, but for the Palestinians. And having voted for peace as the Palestinians have, they now are boundup together in a mutual destiny and it is in all our interest to see that most of them succeed in the becoming more secure and more peaceful.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] from the Associated Press: Prime Minister Peres and John Major both talked of Iran as a source of terrorism. He also mentioned Libya. Why did this conference not single out any of

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will prevail on whatever timetable, unless the enemies of peace can raise the pain of pursuing peace to the Israelis or to the Palestinians so high it seems pointless to them.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, Rita Braver, CBS News. You have answered this question in a more general way, but I wondered after listening to Prime Minister Peres if you are willing, as the President of the United States, to issue a challenge to all of the countries here to isolate Iran, not to do business with them, since it appears that they are in fact the major sponsor of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]? And I also wanted to ask you in regard to the the other points you made here: If you were a family member of one of the victims in Israel—we watched all these anguished faces—do you think that you would feel that with so many of today's accomplishments yet to be achieved that you would want this to go forward without a lot more security, the thing that the Israeli people are demanding?

[Clinton] First of all, let me remind you that last year I took far stronger steps against Iran than any of our European allies had taken up to that point and many of them disagree with me. Honestly. They believe that it's better to maintain some dialogue, to have some engagement. I have continued to argue for the isolation of rogue states. I did it at the United Nations last year. And I continue to do that and will continue to do that based on the evidence we have in hand. In answer to your second question, I don't know how I would feel if I had lost a child. Anyone who says that you know exactly how you'd act if you'd lost a child, unless you've lost a child, you don't know that. I can tell you this. I met with the two American Jewish families who lost their children recently, two of them, in New Jersey the other day and their reactions, I think, are pretty reflective of the Israelis. One family, one who had lost her daughter, her other daughter is about to go back to Israel to continue her studies and feels strongly that the peace process should continue because unless it continues, there will never be any long-term security for the people of Israel. The other family, the father of a slain daughter has spent a lot of time going around our own country, speaking up for the importance of peace. But he is very concerned about security because he knows unless people are secure, they won't feel free to make peace. And I don't think that means they are ambivalent or wishy-washy. I think it means that they understand that these are two sides of the same coin. There must be a certain level of security in order for people to feel free to pursue peace, but unless we ultimately resolve these questions in a peace agreement, there will never be the kind of security that normal life brings and that people expect in a normal course of day-to-day events.

[Correspondent, in Arabic] Your Excellency President Mubarak, a question in Arabic. We hope that the answer will also be in Arabic. In light of the summit's discussions and the final statement that has been issued, we wish to know what steps the summit adopted to guarantee that the peace process is back on track. The second part of this question is about the guarantees that the summit offered to prevent the peace process from stumbling again?

[Mubarak, in Arabic] Regarding the peace process, no one can guarantee 100 percent that the peace process will move ahead without any obstacles. No one in the world can guarantee this. No one in the world can guarantee that terrorist acts will not occur. We must expect that such things can happen. For this reason we must take the necessary precautions. In the final statement there is a paragraph on this. If you read the statement, you will save time and you can see it. Measures are specified in the statement, including the formation of a committee to follow up the implementations of these measures. I believe that the conference has adopted all the measures and guarantees it could to guarantee the smooth continuation of the peace process. When we talk about terrorism, we do this because it obstructs the peace process. Terrorism on both sides wants to kill the peace process. Hence we condemn terrorism and believe that measures must be taken. Such measures were specified in the final statement to resist terrorism so that it will not be able to obstruct the peace process.

[Correspondent] President Mubarak, Eugene Buschinsky of the Westinghouse Broadcasting Company and Fox TV News; and President Clinton. I would like to ask this question of you. Have you not adopted a series of mechanical means to combat what is essentially an ideological movement, namely Islamic extremism, a movement which in fact has caused great tragedy not only in Israel but also in Egypt and even in the United States and other countries? Should you not deal with the problem directly instead of through euphemisms?

[Mubarak] I am sorry to tell you that you are mentioning only Islamic [as heard]. Muslims like any other religion, or Islam like any other religion, is against violence, against any act of violence under any title.

[Clinton] Look, I want to support President Mubarak. He has taken action within Egypt to deal with the problems here. I am gratified that in our most serious terrorist incidents we have made arrests quickly and in the cases where the legal process is on its course, we have achieved convictions with strong sentences. That does not mean that.... [Clinton changes thought] In each of these countries the facts may be somewhat different

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will be set up within two weeks, as President Clinton announced, which will be in charge of executing all these resolutions.

There were some delegations, including 13 Arab delegations. I do not recall any Arab declarations either so unequivocal or so cautious about not harming the peace process. In fact, there was not even one anti-Israeli pronouncement. This is the first time that there has been a conference on a security issue with such massive Arab participation. It is easier to convene people to discuss peace than to talk about terror or security, but it happened. It was organized within six days. The world's top leaders came here, or in any case, all those invited showed up.

This also shows that the dream about a comprehensive peace in the Middle East is possible. Israel today maintains relations with seven Arab states, but this time 13 turned up. I had the opportunity to speak with the representatives of some countries with which we had previously not maintained relations, such as Kuwait, Bahrain, and Yemen. They really showed sympathy and understanding regarding the fact that it is hard to separate the war on terror and the peace process. If we want to have a peace process, terror must be fought off seriously. These are my initial observations.

[Israel TV 1's political correspondent Nisim Mish'al] Mr. Prime Minister, in his news conference President Clinton mentioned the Palestinian issue and the closure, saying that it was a collective punishment but that it was inevitable because of the need to fight terror. Do you intend to remove the closure?

[Peres] I will only go by security considerations. This will be my yardstick.

[Unidentified correspondent] Were you pressured to remove the closure? We understood that both President Mubarak and Clinton pressured you to lift the closure and that you promised them to do so.

[Peres] Up to this moment I did not know that pressure was exerted on me.

[Unidentified correspondent] But this morning you said you would not remove the closure.

[Peres] I have not changed my mind. Incidentally, no pressures whatsoever were exerted on me. I was approached about the naval blockade which bans fishing, and I responded that the blockade had been eased earlier. The naval blockade was not imposed because we want to starve the Palestinians, but because we had reports that some people were trying to flee Gaza by sea and we did not want to allow it. We found a way to enable fishing and to guard the shore.

[Qol Yisra'el's Arye Gus] [words indistinct] that no unequivocal position was taken on two fundamental points.

[Peres] Such as?

[Gus] Such as the Islamic terror. Although there was a declaration against terror....

[Peres, interrupting] What do you want to do, round up Muslims who declare their faith in Islam? Really, there is a limit to everything. In contrast, Israel is the only country with which all the participants here identified. Do not forget what happened here, and the audience that gathered here.

[Mish'al] Mr. Peres, is a memorandum of understanding expected between Israel and the United States on the issue of terror? Is that why Secretary Christopher will stay in Jerusalem until Friday [15 March]?

[Peres] We will discuss with Christopher and with Mr. Deutch the practical steps that should be adopted to fight terror. I will now speak with President Clinton on the plane, and I will consult with him about the best way to organize it. I do not want to go into that question before I speak with him.

[TV 2's 'Imanu'el Rosen] Mr. Prime Minister, several countries, including Saudi Arabia I believe, raised an initiative here for the convening of what they called the second Madrid conference. Do you favorably consider proposals of this kind?

[Peres] What for? This conference is a more far-reaching move than a second Madrid conference could be since it dealt with security issues. Syria did not take part in this conference because of the issue that featured on its agenda. I must say I listened very attentively to the speech by the Saudi foreign minister. It is the first time, to the best of my knowledge, that he has talked about peace between the Palestinians and Israel, mentioning Israel clearly by name. All in all, his speech was very positive and impressive. All speeches, in general, were impressive, and I do not remember such a conference where so many Arab countries expressed themselves so about both Israel and peace with Israel, and publicly, in front of all television cameras.

In the talk with the Yemeni foreign minister, I even asked him to examine the possibility of allowing the bones of [Jewish poet] Shabazi to be brought to Israel. Did he know what I was talking about? He knew and quoted from the writings of Shabazi. He even cited a poem by Shabazi about vegetables, about the war over coffee and another type of food, I do not know what exactly.

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provocation. I do not doubt that this conference causes suffering to Hizballah. We have already known for several days that they are trying to disrupt the conditions necessary for holding this conference. We have no intention of cooperating or engaging in a provocation against ourselves.

[Unidentified BBC correspondent] *Mr. Prime Minister, have you together done enough today to rescue, to repair the peace process?*

[Peres] *I think it is an extremely important contribution. You do not make peace by one jump. It is a road. There are many steps. There are many opponents. There are many mines. But I think today we made headway.*

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Peres, what is your opinion of 'Arafat's proposals to establish an international body to supervise the rate of progress in the negotiations and bring forward the negotiations on the permanent arrangement?

[Peres] If 'Arafat wants an international body to supervise him, let him establish one. We do not need any such body. [20 second break in transmission] ...there will always be some counterargument. That is another problem.

[Channel 1 Television Arabic correspondent Shlomo Ganor] Nevertheless, Mr. Peres, what is your position regarding Syria, which did not send a representative to the Sharm al-Shaykh summit?

[Peres] I would first like to consult with the Americans before saying anything. The fact that I am holding a news conference does not have to change my work schedule. It is part of the job, and I will not make any statements before the time is right.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Peres, do you expect some institutionalized, regional exchange of intelligence information in the wake of the follow-up activity by the working groups?

[Peres] Look, I do not want to load all our problems on this cart. This cart has embarked on a path, which did not previously exist. No one expected either the path to be created or the cart to move. Let the cart start making progress, and then we will see what loads it can carry.

[Nir] Mr. Peres, this morning you spoke about the summit's three objectives: drying up the terrorists' sources of funding; destroying terrorism's infrastructure, halting the flow of weapons, and using the intelligence services to fight terrorism. Have these goals been achieved?

[Peres] Yes, definitely. Look, when we came here it was unclear whether the closing statement would be merely declarative or also contain operative clauses. The fact is that although part of the statement is declarative, part of it also deals with operative steps.

[Unidentified correspondent] *Mr. Peres, what is the situation with what 'Arafat is doing now with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]? Should he not have arrested Muhammad Dayf until now?*

[Peres] *He should. I think he is trying to get hold of him.*

[Unidentified correspondent] *What is your overall assessment though, Sir? Could you give us an assessment?*

[Peres] *I am not in the business of guessing. I know what he should do, and I think he should get hold of him.*

[Unidentified correspondent] *Could you tell us what concrete steps will be taken following this conference.*

[Peres] *There is an agreement to dry the funding arrangements for the terroristic organizations. There is an agreement [passage indistinct due to commentator's superimposed remarks] ...These things were never finalized although we perhaps intended to. We will do it now when we meet in Israel. [passage indistinct due to commentator's superimposed remarks] ...I said Tehran became the capital of terror in the Middle East?*

[Indistinct question by unidentified correspondent]

[Peres] *Yes I am.*

[Unidentified correspondent] Did the prime minister discuss the Iranian issue with Russian President Yeltsin?

[Peres] Yes, I discussed the issue with Yeltsin. I held corridor discussions with approximately 20 international and Arab leaders.

[Unidentified correspondent] With the Saudi representatives as well?

[Peres] I only shook the hand of the Saudi representative. However, as for the others.... [pauses] After all, you cannot just get up and leave someone in the middle of a conversation, but I spoke with almost everyone.

[Unidentified correspondent] There are different kinds of handshakes.

[Peres] Do you want me to describe the handshake. Both our right hands shook each other. Is that enough or do you want more details?

[Unidentified correspondent] What did you discuss with President Yeltsin?

[Peres] He said that he would not permit any support of terrorism or of anything posing a threat to Israel. I did not hold a long conversation with him. Our talk was short. I invited him to visit Israel, and he said that he would come after the elections.

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[Baraq] First, we expect a categorical condemnation. We expect Syria to express its reservations about terror as well as its intention to act against it. I cannot yet tell when the talks will resume. We do not want our intense preoccupation with crushing Hamas to harm the chances of the negotiations with Syria, but under today's circumstances, it is impossible. It is true that the talks have been stopped.

[Scemama] Mr. Foreign Minister, to sum up your latest remarks briefly: We may not evacuate Hebron in two weeks, and you do not see the possibility of resuming the talks with Syria soon.

[Baraq] No, the way you are putting it differs slightly from what I said. I am saying that as long as there is no change in our situation with regard to the Hamas attacks, it will be impossible to evacuate Hebron. This does not mean that it will never happen. It will happen when we see action and results from the struggle against Hamas both by 'Arafat and by us.

[Scemama] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq, thank you very much.

Peacemakers Summit: 'Arafat Comments on Meeting With Clinton

JN1303201196 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Sharm al-Shaykh following the conclusion of the international summit in Egypt this evening.

President 'Arafat said that during their 45-minute meeting they discussed all that concerns supporting the peace process, including the efforts that have been exerted by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to gather this large number of international personalities.

Describing the Sharm al-Shaykh summit as positive, President 'Arafat wished that it will yield good results to safeguard and maintain the peace process. Concerning the Israeli military and economic siege of the Palestinian territories, President 'Arafat said: The Israelis have informed us that they will lift the closure partially as of today. We hope that they will lift it completely within the coming days.

President 'Arafat indicated that he expects Israel to completely lift the closure of the Palestinian territories within days.

Peacemakers Summit: France's Chirac on 'Useful' Sharm al-Shaykh Summit

LD1303192796 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1800 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Sharm al-Shaykh in Egypt, 29 presidents or heads of state have met for four hours to pinpoint what is good and bad: peace in the Middle East is good, terrorism is bad. The summit's final declaration seems to satisfy the Israelis, since their Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says that from now on his compatriots can sleep more soundly. [passage omitted]

President Chirac did not miss the opportunity to voice the position of France — more than ever a supporter of peace and one on which terrorism has taken its toll:

[Begin Chirac recording] It is a balanced declaration and one that marks the will of all great nations, or nations concerned, at the same time to reinforce the peace process, to support it, and also to come together to fight terrorism more efficiently. All in all, in my opinion, a useful meeting. I think this summit has had the advantage of highlighting the fact that the forces of peace also exist, that they are important, and that they are well represented here in Sharm al-Shaykh. [end recording]

Peacemakers Summit: De Charette Sees Sharm al-Shaykh Summit as 'Positive Event'

LD1303193596 Paris LCI Television in French 1455 GMT 13 Mar 96

[Interview with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette by unidentified correspondent in Sharm al-Shaykh—live; monitored in progress]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] ...we have a word about the position of President Chirac who summarized....[pauses] I will tell you the major headline which you may not already have heard, Minister, that at Sharm al-Shaykh Jacques Chirac called for the speeding up of economic aid to the Palestinians, and the head of state judged Israel's sealing off of the territories as being counterproductive. Does this accurately sum up France's position?

[De Charette] The two points are absolutely right. However it is necessary to see Sharm al-Shaykh for what it is — that is to say, a real first. It is the first time that we find assembled, in such a way, in several days, in less than six days, the heads of state and governments of the international community, coming from Europe, America, and Asia — because the Japanese were there — and practically all the countries of the region, together to show their determination, on the one hand, to continue and implement the peace process in the Middle

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[Ubeda] [passage omitted] Here in Sharm al-Shaykh, Felipe Gonzalez rejected the idea that Islamicist violence is a religious problem; rather it is a problem of terrorism pure and simple. He supported one of the summit's conclusions referring to international cooperation by security forces, noting that 85 percent of the fight against terrorism is intelligence and 15 percent action.

As for relations with Lebanon and Syria, who boycotted this summit, Gonzalez said that the EU wanted to leave the door open for future cooperation. Asked whether this could be extended to Iran, he replied:

[Begin Gonzalez recording] The divergence which exists between the United States and the EU is clear. A critical dialogue is being maintained with Iran by the EU, and the United States wants a total breaking off of relations and much stronger international pressure. So, if that critical dialogue does not produce any results this will probably lead to a much stronger position. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Peacemakers Summit: Spain's Gonzalez Praises Mubarak's Peace Role

BR1303134196 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2021 GMT 12 Mar 96

[Unattributed report: "Middle East Summit — Gonzalez Meets With Mubarak and Praises His Middle East Role"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sharm al-Shayk, Egypt (EFE) — Caretaker Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez met this evening for half an hour with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the host of the international summit on the Middle East and terrorism that will be held tomorrow.

The meeting that will be held in the Egyptian town of Sharm al-Shayk, the seat of the international conference, will also be attended by acting Spanish Foreign Minister Carlos Westendorp.

Gonzalez told journalists when he left the meeting that "the document setting out the conclusions to the summit is under preparation and work will continue on it throughout the night."

He added that they hoped the document could be concluded when the other heads of state and government arrive to attend this summit — the most important one on the Middle East since the Madrid conference which launched the peace process in 1991.

The Spanish prime minister was relatively "optimistic" about the future of the peace plan, despite recent setbacks and the paralysis that has set in since the wave of suicide bombings carried out by radical Palestinians in Israel and the reprisal measures taken by the Israeli authorities.

Gonzalez praised the mediating role played by Mubarak in the peace process.

He said: "You are all well aware that President Mubarak is a powerful force capable of breathing new life into this process."

The Egyptian president, together with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, decided to organize this summit and it has been convened in record time, bringing together the leaders of some 30 countries, including eight heads of state and many heads of government and ministers, plus UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

Gonzalez reiterated that the summit has two basic aims, first to free the peace process from the deadlock into which it has fallen, and second to strengthen antiterrorist cooperation between nations.

The caretaker prime minister insisted on how important it was for all countries to work together in the fight against terrorism.

Peacemakers Summit: Sudanese Opposition Grouping Praises Summit Convention

NC1403105896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0023 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Mar (MENA) — Today, the Sudanese National Democratic Grouping, which includes all of the opposition factions, sent a message to the heads of state and governments taking part in the summit of peacemakers in Sharm al-Shaykh. The message confirmed that the assembly of this important summit constituted the appropriate forum to announce to the whole world that the Sudanese people oppose the practices of the terrorist regime of [al-Turabi's] the Front for sponsoring, supporting, and financing international terrorism, in the National Democratic Grouping's opinion.

The statement said that at the same time, the Sudanese people feel great pain and anguish regarding the state of isolation and repeated international condemnations of the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime's practices.

The statement clarified that the National Democratic Grouping affirms that Khartoum's oppressive regime has opened all Sudan's doors and dedicated its meager resources to bolster the activities of the terrorist factions that have flocked to Sudan from all continents. The regime is providing them with protection, financial support, training camps, and all kinds of facilities, including Sudanese identity documents, such as passports and other papers.

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Inter-Arab Affairs: Syria, Saudi FM's Meet on League Conference Sidelines

NC1403125396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1204 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Mar (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met on the sidelines of the Arab League Council session, which opened in Cairo today.

They discussed developments in the Middle East peace process. Al-Shar' arrived in Cairo earlier today to attend the Arab meeting.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Movements Issue Joint Statement Urging Lifting of 'Siege'

TA1303172996 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 1630 GMT 13 Mar 96

["Statement to the Public"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The following statement was issued today by the undersigned movements and personalities:

The Palestinian people have been suffering for over two weeks from a dangerous state of siege and starvation. Through isolation, closure and arrests, the Israeli government is trying to surround the West Bank with permanent blockades and also trying to draw the border along the West Bank before the final-status talks.

The situation of the Palestinians under curfew, closure and fragmentation is a dangerous collective punishment against the entire nation. Instead of helping to uproot the causes of violence and depression, it increases and deepens it among an oppressed and starving people, a people who feel no benefits of peace. What they feel are continuous threats and humiliation to their national dignity and sovereignty. Their land is confiscated, their water resources are controlled, their economic relationships are regulated, and the geographical unity between their cities and villages is cut. Jerusalem is still isolated despite being the heart of the West Bank and the very heart of the Palestinian nation. The arrest campaign and violations that take place during these arrests, interrogation, and the refusal to release prisoners is not providing an environment for national dialogue. Rather, it is highlighting the division in the national ranks. It does not help in providing a feeling of safety, stability and just peace for the peoples of this region.

The root cause of the bloody violence in this region is the fact that Israel still occupies most of the Palestinian areas. The signed Palestinian-Israeli agreements have proven unable to achieve the real demands of peace, which the Palestinian people look forward to.

These agreements, which the Israeli side is not committed to, will not bring security and peace to the region, because they do not deal with the root cause of the conflict: the fact that the Palestinian people are not allowed to practice their rights to independence, self-determination and return. These rights are guaranteed by international law, which stipulates Israeli withdrawal from all the lands it occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, return of Palestinian refugees, and provision of security and peace for the peoples in the region.

We call upon the world community and the heads of state concerned with security and peace in our region to deal with the real causes for the continuation of hostility and instability. The heads of state should use their international weight and real desire to achieve peace for all the peoples of the region, which we consider to be:

1. Stop the collective punishment and closure policy against the Palestinians, and lift the siege immediately. The siege should be lifted off Jerusalem as well. The causes of the conflict should be ended by creating a political separation based on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and sovereignty — not by creating an oppressive military/security separation aiming to starve the Palestinians and increasing feelings of desperation and violence in the region.

2. We ask the governments of the United States, Russia, the European Union, and the Arab countries to exert pressure on the Israeli side to implement international law, which if implemented, guarantees a permanent peace for the peoples of this region.

3. The negotiations on permanent status should begin immediately on the basis of international law being the reference for all the parties. All parties should agree that the signed agreements, continuation of settlement expansion, isolation of Jerusalem, and half-solutions have not brought security, or stability to either people. A final and permanent solution is needed to achieve political separation, sovereignty and secure borders for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is the realistic and honorable foundation for peace and for an end to the cycle of violence.

Signed by the following Palestinian movements: Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP); Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP); Palestinian People's Party (PPP); National Democratic Union (FIDA); Democracy Building Movement; Arab Liberation Front (ALF)

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Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Says Israel To Lift Siege 'Partially'

NC1303193296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1837 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Sharm al-Shaykh, 13 Mar (MENA)—In a statement to MENA, President Yasir 'Arafat stated that the Israeli side has informed him indirectly that Israel will partially, and not completely, lift the siege imposed on the occupied territories.

The Palestinian president reaffirmed that the peace process is facing great challenges, noting that most of these challenges are prompted by terrorist activities and by the wrong implementation of what has been agreed upon. 'Arafat lauded the peacemakers summit and described it as extremely positive, especially the final statement which notes that the participating countries will follow up on the main three topics.

To a question about the Palestinian request that the summit issue a recommendation for promoting trade ties with Egypt and Jordan, 'Arafat said that this issue is still under discussion and it will be handled by the summit sponsors Presidents Bill Clinton, Husni Mubarak, and Boris Yeltsin.

To another question about the assistance that he obtained during the summit, 'Arafat said: I wish to thank Japan, which offered $12 million. But the problem is much greater.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Returns Home, Says Summit 'Positive'

JN1403111196 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Mar 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat is currently meeting with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. The two sides will discuss the latest developments of the peace process in light of the convening of the international summit of peacemakers in Sharm al-Shaykh. They will also discuss Palestinian-Turkish relations and the means of developing them.

President 'Arafat returned home this morning after leading a Palestinian delegation to the summit of peacemakers which was held in Sharm al-Shaykh in Egypt. President 'Arafat stressed that the summit was positive and constructive. He said that he hoped what was agreed on by all summit delegations would be implemented.

Regarding the lifting of the military siege on the Palestinian territories, President 'Arafat said: I think they will start lifting the siege gradually.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Addresses Memorandum to Sharm al-Shaykh Summit

JN1303153696 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0920 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 13 Mar (INA)—The Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement has said that it is a political movement that resists occupation. It also says that it works on two levels, one political since it considers itself part of the Palestinian people's national liberation movement, the other military, which aims to support the first trend and which was employed after exhausting all political and peaceful means.

In an important memorandum distributed in Amman at dawn today and addressed to the kings, presidents, and ministers meeting in Sharm al-Shaykh, the Hamas Movement says: Israeli aggressions are the cause of turmoil in the Middle East. Israel, which occupies the territory and displaces its people, is carrying out the ugliest terrorist acts against innocent citizens and constantly violates international laws. At the same time, Hamas is keen to preserve the right to self-defense and directs its operations against Israeli military formations.

The memorandum says that Hamas proposed several offers and initiatives to arrive at a cease-fire that is based on fair conditions. The Israelis, however, ignored these offers and went even further in their terrorism against our people. The movement is still as ready as ever to deal with any regional or international effort that aims to arrive at that objective, particularly as regards any harm to civilians from both sides.

In its memorandum to the conferees in Sharm al-Shaykh, Hamas says that the continued occupation of Palestinian territories is the reason behind the operations carried out by its military wing against Israeli targets. Hamas says that these operations would automatically stop with the removal of the occupation. It adds that international measures in support of Israel's position on confronting Hamas will not be the sound prelude to solving the problem, but will cause an increase in the Israeli occupation's violence, terrorism, and savagery and perhaps that of the Palestinian Authority.

Hamas calls for adopting the conferees' previous stands, which demanded the withdrawal of occupation forces and making room for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination. Hamas also calls for pressure against the Israeli Government so that it would respond to the calls of wisdom and rationality.

The movement welcomes any good mediation on the conferees' part. It says: We remind you that we forbid the principle of political assassination. We also refuse to achieve our political objectives through violence.

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Palestinian national skepticism about the evil Zionist intentions aimed at imposing a final solution that gives the Palestinians self-rule forever within the framework of a Greater Israel."

In its periodic bulletin, which QUDS PRESS managed to scan, Fatah stressed the need of Palestinian awareness vis-a-vis Israeli schemes and practices. It said: At the same time that the Israeli side is insisting that the charter be amended, it continues to procrastinate and refuses to abide by the commitments in the Declaration of Principles." Fatah emphasized that "the charter constitutes a negotiating stance in the final solution talks." [passage omitted]

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This is the peace in which we believe and for which we are calling.

[Abu-Husayn] So Libya is for establishing a full peace and condemning and denouncing terrorism?

[Shalabi] Libya is calling for the peace about which I spoke earlier: a Palestinian state in which all people, regardless of their religions, beliefs, and political affiliations, coexist. As for condemning and denouncing terrorism, as is known, Libya condemns all forms of organized, random, and international terrorism, including U.S. terrorism against Libya and Israeli terrorism against Arab states, including the downing of a Libyan plane over Sinai.

Recent history contains numerous incidents which confirm that the sole legitimate representative of terrorism in the region is Israel. Thus the antiterrorism conference should primarily condemn Israel, not support it in the name of a false peace.

[Abu-Husayn] Let us move on to the Lockerbie crisis, in which political stands pose numerous complications preventing the West from responding to the legal solutions proposed by Libya. Is there anything new?

[Shalabi] Libyan policy is fixed and clear. And if there is a U.S. call for toughening the sanctions imposed on Libya, this position is part of the U.S. election campaign. However, we hope that the European states will look after their own interests and adopt a position independent of the U.S. position, especially as they have projects worth billions [currency not specified] in Libya. Thus Europe is supposed to be concerned primarily with its interests and their protection. That can only be achieved through a decision independent of the U.S. decision, especially with regard to the Lockerbie crisis. Besides, the Libyan people will not adopt a spectator's attitude if the European decision submits to the U.S. Administration. I do not rule out the possibility of the basic people's congresses, which rule Libya, deciding to expel the Western companies operating in Libya and transfer all projects to other states whose stands are more positive, independent, and supportive of Libya's legitimate issue, namely to resolve the crisis via official and legal channels within the framework of international legitimacy.

I am saying this proceeding from similar stances adopted by the basic people's congresses in Libya in previous sessions, namely to ban imports from states supporting the United States in its position against Libya. It is more proper to apply such decisions to the huge projects carried out by Western companies in Libya.

[Abu-Husayn] What about the Arab states' stands, and what do you expect from the Arab League Council's meetings at foreign level?

[Shalabi] We hope that the Arab foreign ministers will adopt resolutions more decisive than previous ones — decisions along the lines of the position of the nonaligned states [conference] held in Colombia recently at which Western states called for the Libyan position to be dealt with positively, stressed the positiveness and flexibility of the decisions and ideas proposed in this connection by Libya, and urged the Security Council to revoke all the coercive measures imposed on Libya. The Nonaligned Movement also warned that that, if its demands are not implemented, they would not comply with the measures imposed on Libya.

[Abu-Husayn] But the blockade imposed on Libya is unlikely to be toughened, nor are additional sanctions likely to be imposed, especially in view of the current dialogue between Libya and the United Nations.

[Shalabi] The problem does not lie in the dialogue and its continuation. The problem lies in the constants of U.S. policy toward Libya. There is a hostile U.S. position toward Libya, whatever the results and the cases. [sentence as published]

[Abu-Husayn] It has been reported recently that Colonel al- Qadhdhafi hinted at closing foreign embassies in Libya. What is the background of this issue?

[Shalabi] First of all, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has no powers to take such a decision. Second, what was reported by the media in this connection is inaccurate, because what al-Qadhdhafi said was mentioned in the framework of his review of developments in the means of communication among states, such as telephones and fax. He meant that presidents and ministers can consult and coordinate easily through these modern means and that political relations among states are no longer limited to contacts through diplomatic channels in the embassies.

Second, the embassies' role in sabotaging the national economy and harming the value of the Libyan dinar. So what Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi stressed is his demand for foreign embassies to respect local laws and legislation in Libya and not to deal in dollars on the black market in order to protect the reputation of the states they represent in Libya.

The third point concerns what I said earlier, namely that the quarter responsible for issuing decisions and concluding internal and external agreements is the basic people's congresses ruling Libya. Thus al-Qadhdhafi cannot issue decides on the Libyan people's behalf. Besides, describing him as president is incompatible with

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This participation is a violation of the conventions of the Arab Maghreb Union and a clear deviation from its charter which confirms the necessity for consultation between its members regarding any decisions taken by member states which affect the union.

The participation in this conference which is attended by the Israelis constitutes a departure from Arab ranks, which dictates an abstention from any conference or meeting attended by the Israelis who still occupy Arab territories and declare daily that Jerusalem is their eternal capital and wage a war against the Arab nation and practise terrorism and threaten the Arab capitals through their possession of weapons of mass destruction. This forces us to register our disappointment at the positions of both (?Algeria and Tunisia).

Libya: JANA Denounces Welcoming Ceremony for Clinton in Jerusalem

LD1403095696 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Occupied Palestine, Al Rabia [March] 14, Jamahiriyah News Agency — Reports said that terrorist Eizer Weizeman insisted on arranging the welcoming ceremony for the American President during the visit he was due to pay to occupied Palestine in the city of Jerusalem and not, as required by the custom, at the airport. The decision was taken within the framework of the continued insistence by the Israelis on the claim that Jerusalem is their eternal capital in defiance of the will of the international community and contempt to all those who signed the documents of capitulation with the enemy of the Arab nation who is occupying their land and violating their sacred shrines and ferociously continuing attempts to turn Jerusalem into a Jewish city.

This visit by the American President to occupied Palestine, the third of its kind within a year, and his desire to attend a mini meeting of the government of the Israeli enemy reflect the extent of the animosity of America towards the Arab nation and assert the strategic alliance between America and the Israeli enemy which has no limit and aimed at dominating the greater Arab homeland and stealing its resources.

The meeting of the American President and terrorist Eizer Weizeman in the city of Jerusalem in occupied Palestine came to reaffirm the unlimited support to the Israelis and their claims that the city of Jerusalem was their eternal capital while the American Congress decided during the month of Al-Harth [November] last year the transfer of the American Embassy to the Israeli enemy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in defiance of all international resolutions and conventions which prohibit any change of historical and administrative status of Jerusalem also these blatant American hostile stances against the Arab nation to show the direct contempt by America for the feelings of the Arab and Muslim nation and all the resolutions adopted by Islamic summits regarding Jerusalem. These stances constitute a slap in the face of those running after establishing relations with America and surrendered to the Israeli enemy and signed documents of capitulation with it.

Libya: JANA Reports CIA 'Admits' Espionage Activity Against France

LD1403093996 Tripoli JANA in English 0828 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington, Al Rabia [March] 14, Jamahiriyah News Agency — The C.I.A. admits in a report conducting acts of espionage against France and attempting to recruit French officials to facilitate this task.

The reports said that the French authorities requested the American Government to recall five Americans accused of spying suspected of being C.I.A. agents seeking to recruit French officials holding senior positions in the French Government.

The American intelligence radio, known as Voice of Americ , quoted a statement by the C.I.A. as saying that the spying operation occurred during the month of Al-Nawwar [February] last year and focused on economic and telecommunications intelligence.

Sudan

Sudan: Al-Turabi—'Antiterrorist' Summit To Strengthen Islamic Movement

AB1303161596 Paris AFP in French 1508 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Vienna, 13 Mar (AFP) — Hasan al-Turabi, eminence grise of the Khartoum military regime, believes that the Sharm al-Shaykh (Egypt) antiterrorist summit will only strengthen the Islamic movement, in an interview published today in an Austrian newspaper.

Sudan has, since 1993, been on the State Department's list of countries supporting terrorism. Just like Iraq and Libya, it was not invited to the Sharm al-Shaykh summit.

The summit "will draw attention to those who are killed or condemned by military tribunals," the Sudanese Islamic leader said in an interview in Khartoum with the DER STANDARD daily. "This will inspire a new generation and heighten the reaction of some of them.

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[Al-Gawhari] However, because of the ultimatum of the UN Security Council you are objectively in a tight corner, even though you claim that it is unfair.

[Al-Turabi] Right. We also know that the United Nations is not a democratic institution and that the Security Council is controlled by the veto holders. They are claiming that three Egyptians who are accused of a crime have come to our country. We are looking for them. We have even invited Interpol to help us. We have not said that we have them and do not want to extradite them.

[Al-Gawhari] What are you doing to counteract the ultimatum?

[Al-Turabi] We are trying to convince the people that we are searching for the wanted persons; rewards have even been offered. We do not know if they are still in the country. Perhaps they are off and away; this would be almost natural for someone who is wanted.

However, the situation is not alarming for Sudan. This country can live on its own. If we are isolated, we will develop alone. We are still a little dependent, but we also want to change that.

Sudan: FM Taha on Elections, Regional Relations

MM1203113796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 10 Mar 96 p 7

[Interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha by Arlette Khuri in Paris; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khuri] Could you give us some details about the sabotage attempt which a group of Sudanese Army officers tried to stage? How true are the reports that these officers were in liaison with an opposition side?

[Taha] This attempt is only a link in a chain falling within the bounds of one plan. Some of the links could be implemented through the neighborhood countries while others are designed for implementation by opposition groups inside Sudan. However, I cannot reveal any details at present so as not to impair the course of investigations now being conducted by the Sudanese authorities.

[Khuri] How do you evaluate the elections that are now taking place in Sudan?

[Taha] These elections have just entered their third day. Usually the Sudanese become enthusiastic and rush to the election booths when the matter in question is nearing its end.

[Khuri] Is this your explanation for the noticeable lack of participation by the Sudanese in the elections?

[Taha] Evidently participation in the elections varies according to the regions and provinces. It is still too early to give a full evaluation or opinion about the extent of the people's response to the elections.

[Khuri] Are you seeking, by holding the elections, to bestow some sort of legitimacy on the Sudanese regime, despite the opposition parties' boycott of these elections?

[Taha] It is not true that these elections are aimed at giving international legitimacy to the Sudanese regime. The decision to hold the elections was taken in implementation of the promise the Sudanese responsible officials had previously given to pave the way for internal popular participation.

The plan on which the elections were based has provided fair and equal opportunities for all citizens, as is testified by all those who have read the constitutional decree issued in this regard as well as by all those who have witnessed the free climate accorded to all the candidates to express their views, even views which conflict with the constant principles of the regime and constitute a departure from these constant principles.

Nor is it true that the parties have boycotted the elections. Only the leaderships of the parties declared a boycott, but the masses of the parties' members are now participating in the elections. The candidates include several people who held ministerial or provincial governors' posts under the past regime.

[Khuri] How are elections proceeding in southern Sudan, where the prevailing security conditions prevent citizens from going to the election booths? How will southern Sudan be represented in parliament?

[Taha] For the first time, the south is witnessing elections in all the southern provinces. It is true that all the 10 provinces in southern Sudan include one or more constituencies where elections are not taking place due to security conditions. But compared to the elections held in the days when the parties were in power in 1986, there were entire provinces in southern Sudan where elections could not be held. Yet that state of affairs did not detract from the representative character of the elections. According to statistics, elections are taking place in 36 of the 47 constituencies allocated for the South. This represents a high ratio and belies the claims by the rebel movement about its domination of conditions and the lack of security in southern Sudan.

[Khuri] Do you expect an improvement in the international climate toward Sudan following the elections?

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GCC: Foreign Ministers To Meet in Riyadh 16 Mar

LD1303200096 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1915 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 13 Mar — The GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council — the foreign ministers — will hold its 58th. session on Saturday at the premises of the GCC in Riyadh. During its two-day meetings the Council will discuss continuing the implementation of the decisions of the 16th session of the GCC Supreme Council [GCC summit] which was held in Muscat in December 1995. The Council will also discuss Iraq's implementation of the UN resolutions relating to its aggression on the State of Kuwait, in addition to regional and international issues and developments, and recent developments in the Middle East peace process. The Council will also deal with a number of economic issues of interest to the Council particularly those relating to the means of bolstering relations with other states and international economic groups.

Bahrain

Bahrain: 7 Killed in Arson Attack at Restaurant

JN1403125396 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1140 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 14 Mar (WAKH) — A responsible security source said that the security agencies received a report early this morning, Thursday, 14 March 1996, on a fire in a restaurant in Sitrat Wadiyan [location not further identified].

The source said fire engines, Civil Defense agencies, and officers and experts from the General Administration of the Public Security rushed to the scene of the incident. It turned out that the fire was an act of arson. The restaurant was totally destroyed in the blaze and seven people inside suffocated and were burned to death.

A number of eyewitnesses said in the preliminary investigations that five masked persons poured gasoline at the restaurant entrance and set it on fire using molotov cocktails. They also prevented those inside the restaurant from leaving.

The source said the security agencies will continue investigations and a detailed statement on this criminal incident and the results of investigation will be issued later.

Bahrain: Prime Minister 'Regrets' 'Act of Terrorism' at Restaurant

JN1403134696 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1235 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 14 Mar (WAKH)— Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, accompanied by the interior minister and the cabinet affairs and information minister, have visited the scene of the fire in a restaurant in Sitrat Wadiyan. His highness acquainted himself with the results of the criminal act.

His highness expressed his regret over this act of terrorism, and issued instructions to take all the necessary measures to arrest the culprits quickly and refer them to justice in order to implement legal measures against them so as to protect society from the evils of terrorism.

His highness also gave instructions to contact the victims' families to extend the Bahraini Government's condolences on the death of these innocent people, and to extend the necessary aid to their families.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Dailies Comment on Outcome of Peacemakers Summit

LD1403131196 Riyadh SPA in English
1240 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, March 14, SPA — Most of the Saudi newspapers on Thursday spared main editorials to welcome the outcome of the one-day peacemakers summit conference which was concluded at Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt on Wednesday and attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal the foreign minister.

The papers also highlighted the noble meanings contained in the speech delivered on behalf of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal during the meeting.

The Al-Dammam-based, AL-YAWM, said the speech has emphasized the steadfast principles and attitudes being pursued by the kingdom whether on ways to maintain the peace process or on how to fight terrorism and violent acts that swept the entire world.

While deploring all sorts of terrorism and violence, AL-YAWM added, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls for stopping collective punishment against the residents of the occupied terrorities. The paper said its was quite obvious that the massacre of Hebron may be more nefarious and brutal than the recent explosions witnessed by Israel.

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Yemen: Al-Iryani Meets French Foreign Minister, UN's Ghali

JN1303184596 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, [Yemeni] deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met in Sharm al-Shaykh with French Foreign Minister Herve De Charette. They discussed bilateral relations and ways of bolstering and advancing them. They also discussed French efforts to resolve the Yemeni-Eritrean differences resulting from the Eritrean aggression against the Yemeni al-Hanish al-Kabir Island.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister also met with UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali. They discussed the Yemeni-UN relations and the French peaceful initiative to resolve the Yemeni-Eritrean differences resulting from the Eritrean aggression against the Yemeni al-Hanish al-Kabir Island. They also discussed the possibility of the secretary general exerting good offices to resolve this disagreement through peaceful means.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani also met with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy prime minister and interior minister, and Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, Qatari foreign minister. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways of bolstering and advancing them in the service of the common interests of the two brotherly peoples.

The meetings were attended by brothers Ghalib 'Ali Jamil, Yemeni Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; Colonel Rashid Jurhum, the Interior Ministry under secretary; and Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, Yemen's ambassador to Egypt and permanent representative to the Arab League.

Yemen: France Presents Draft Agreement on Dispute With Eritrea

NC1303215796 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said the French government has presented the final draft of an agreement of principles that commits the Yemeni and Eritrean sides not to resort to the use of force.

In an exclusive statement to the radio team in Sharm al-Shaykh, he said that the agreement commits the two sides to the establishment of a court that will look into their dispute, adding that this is the best method for this crisis. He expressed hope that the agreement will be ready for signing as soon as possible and that the Eritrean brothers will be ready to sign it.

Yemen: 3 Killed in Hand-Grenade Attack at Cinema

MM1403124196 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Mar 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Three Killed in Movie Threater Explosion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, AL-HAYAH — Sources in Yarim, situated in Yemen's Dhamar Governorate, have said that an explosion took place in the Zufar movie theater while people were watching a movie yesterday.

The explosion, which occurred at 1730 local time, resulted in the death of at least three people. It is believed that the explosion was caused by a hand grenade hurled into the hall.

Security services have begun their inquiries to determine the motives for hurling the hand grenade and hence arrest the perpetrators. Dhamar Governorate is situated some 100 km south of Sanaa.

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excellency the leader president, at which they had the opportunity to reaffirm to his excellency their constant position of calling for an end to the Iraqi people's hardship by the immediate lifting of the blockade or, at least, by abolition of some provisions of the blockade which cause immediate grave harm to the Iraqi people.

Serge Mathieu, the French Senate vice president who is from the Union Party for Democracy, which was headed by former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, has told ALIF BA' that the delegation's unofficial visit has given its members, who belong to the senate's and National Assembly's main political tendencies, the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the blockade's consequences to the Iraqi citizen's life. These details will provide a clear and accurate picture which will help activist friends of the Iraqi people familiarize the other Senate and National Assembly members with the urgent reasons requiring everybody concerned with human rights to urge the French Government and the rest of the world to move promptly to lift the blockade or, at least, to alleviate its restrictions.

Senator Mathieu noted that he and his colleagues will be eager to move, not just in France but also in Europe through the European Union Parliament, to urge the European governments to adopt, through the European Union, a clear position compatible with their declared humanitarian obligations and to bolster this position with a political stance that calls on the Security Council to end the hardship the Iraqi people are experiencing because of the disruption of resources with which to purchase food and drugs.

Senator Mateo added that this unofficial visit is a reflection of the French popular position which is eager to restore normalcy to the historical relations between Iraq and France, adding that the official relations should be within the same framework of normalcy. He said that his respect for and his moral obligation to the ruling government alliance in France prevents him from expressing any opinion at present, considering that he supports Mr. Chirac. However, French parliamentary activity persists and this year has seen a symposium on Iraqi-French relations from the senate podium. More than 300 figures participated, and "we, Iraq's friends, will continue this effort next year."

Jacques Beson, a senator from the Socialist Party, has told ALIF BA', "We, socialist friends of Iraq, are working with all our might to make the French Government listen to what is dictated by its duty to lift the injustice inflicted on the Iraqi people. It is an injustice that will not be eliminated unless a strong position is taken vis-a-vis the pressure and domination exercised by the U.S. Administration."

Responding to an ALIF BA' question regarding his opinion of the current version of resolution 986, Beson said, "I, along with a large number of politicians from various political tendencies, am convinced that resolution 986 intervenes in Iraq's affairs. Therefore, it must be amended, at least. We parliamentarians are optimistic that a considerable change has begun to develop in the position of French citizens toward the hardship the Iraqi people are experiencing. There is a conviction that the blockade is a cold war means. This war exists no longer, and for there is no justification for its cruel means."

Responding to our question as to how the socialists reconcile their social projections that are concerned with securing reassurance and welfare for mankind with the noticeable silence vis-a-vis the blockade, Beson said, "The question your magazine has raised motivates me to present an official question to the leadership of the Democratic Internationalist Socialism, particularly to Pierre Moreau, the French Socialist Party leader. I believe that it is essential that the French Socialist Party and internationalist socialism and its parties hasten to organize prompt meetings with Iraq's Socialist Arab Ba'th Party to acquaint themselves with the details of this party's views of the developments in the region and of the severe hardship that the war has produced and that the Iraqi people are experiencing."

The last delegation member to be interviewed by ALIF BA' was Yves Bonnet, a French National Assembly member from the Union Party for the Republic (Gaullists), which is led by President Jacques Chirac. He was the French Intelligence Agency chief during the period of the Iranian aggression against Iraq.

At the outset of the interview, Bonnet pointed out that he has encountered no great surprises in Baghdad, considering that he had formed a mental picture through his follow-up of the difficult economic conditions. He said that what he saw in Baghdad confirmed his conviction, "This tragic fact dictates that a resolution be taken promptly to lift the blockade."

However, he went on to say, "If it is not possible to lift the blockade totally at present, then it is necessary to resort to a number of steps that lead to a gradual lifting, beginning with steps to permit air travel and cultural and athletic exchange.'

He further added, "Any steps in the direction of alleviating this blockade under this circumstance are steps in the right direction to lift the blockade. The embargo on air travel means intensifying the geographic remoteness of Iraq, which is 1,000 km from Amman. This is a long and tiring distance. Free air travel will move Iraq back closer to the 'Arab world.'"

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Israel: Peres Greets Clinton Upon Arrival

TA1303200296 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1825 GMT 13 Mar 96

[Address by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres at state reception for U.S. President Bill Clinton at Ben-Gurion Airport — live; in English with superimposed Hebrew translation; transcribed from the English.]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. President, Secretary of State, distinguished delegation: I really feel like a moved person. I saw the President of the United States at his best, the great President. And may I tell our people (?as a moving friend). From the moment the first bomb exploded, the President did not stop to worry, to ask what can he do (?and offer relief) to overcome the difficulties and agonies of Israel, to save the peace process, to introduce a light of hope and understanding in the Middle East.

I'd like to tell our people: Actually, in order to confront terrorism we have to fight on three fronts: domestically, to organize our own forces; and to ask the Palestinians to perform correctly to save the agreement between us and them; and then to have the responsible international community to come together and stop the traffic of arms, money, of support.

The President got himself involved in all the three domains. We asked for some equipment so to safeguard our frontiers and in 12 hours it was in Israel. Then the President called upon the head of the Palestinian Authority and in very clear terms told him that he has to do whatever he should in accordance with the agreement not to enable Gaza to become a source of violence and (?killings). And then in six or seven days, the President organized a conference of an unprecedented nature. For the first time in the history of the Middle East, 13 representatives — kings, prime ministers, foreign ministers of Arab lands — came together and were considering how to bring security so as to enable peace to flow on. They were the most impressive leaders of our time who came to Sharm al-Shaykh, and in an extremely short, while it became an outstanding landmark in the attempt to face a new situation.

Let me say a word about the new situation. Previously we knew time of war and time of peace. When there was peace, there was no war; when there was war, there was no peace. Here for the first time we're trying to bring peace, and at the same time we have to stop terror from killing the peace. I think what the President did is a sort of a doctrine saying we have to fight terror if we want to proceed with peace. We cannot satisfy ourselves just by being nice people and continuing the peace process. And with an unbelieving eye I saw today 30 leaders, 13 of them Arabs, coming together and accepting the invitation and the doctrine of the President of the United States.

Nobody can guarantee that from now on we shall see just nice things, but I can say with (?a full heart) that whatever could have been done internationally, regionally, nationally, and humanly the President took the initiative to do so and did it with great devotion and great understanding.

And, what I want to say simply: Welcome to the land of Israel. Thank you, Mr. President, for being great and friendly as you are. Thank you.

Israel: Clinton at Inner Cabinet Meeting, Talks To Jerusalem Mayor

TA1403093596 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 0855 GMT 14 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The following are initial details about the special inner cabinet meeting with President Clinton. First, those who spoke during the meeting were Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal and Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq. This was clearly a work meeting. One could see that those who spoke were people connected with security. Decisions were made, the most important of which concerns the memorandum of understanding on counterterrorism. Sources in the Prime Minister's Office have just told us that this memorandum will be signed possibly within a few days — this week or perhaps the beginning of next week.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 14 March adds that during the special meeting "Clinton said the United States will allocate $100 million for the ministerial work group which will convene in Washington to discuss practical recommendations about the ware against terror. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will head the group. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal said it was necessary to have international legislation which will ban the funneling of funds to terror organizations under the cover of charity activity.

["President Clinton also met with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert today. Our correspondent Esti Perez reports that Olmert told Clinton about the horrendous attacks in Jerusalem, saying that the municipality will be happy to help in anything concerning the move of the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. President Clinton told Olmert he would have liked to visit the attack sites in Jerusalem, but it was the Israeli Government that decided the schedule for his visit."]

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this region may be able to live and work together against terrorism and for a peaceful future. Thank you.

[Israel TV 2's 'Imanu'el Rosen] Mr. President, the opposition in Israel is quite skeptical, I may say even cynical, about your visit here. They say that you came mainly to rescue the prime minister before the coming elections. They say the conference in Sharm al-Shaykh will do nothing to prevent terrorism. What can you tell them?

[Clinton] I do not want to put words in their mouth, but I came here because you have over 60 people dead in the last few days as a result of terrorism, because the United States is your ally and friend, and because we believe that without an effort to reestablish security and a feeling of security it will be difficult for the progress of peace to go forward. In addition, to the Israelis who were killed, there were Americans killed, there were Palestinians killed, there were Moroccans. That is why I came here at this moment.

We put together the meeting in Sharm al-Shaykh along with President Mubarak because I felt that the time was ripe for other countries in the region and around the world to demonstrate to the nations here most effectively, especially Israel, and to the Palestinians who have rejected terror, that they are not alone, that it is about time that other countries stood up and said: This is wrong, we are going to stand against it and we are going to work against it.

I do not interfere in the internal politics of other nations and I believe that — at least if the American experience is any indication — it would be more of a hindrance than a help. This is a democracy. I respect the results of the democracy here and at home. I came here because of what happened to you and because of our relationship with you — America stands with Israel in times like this — and because we have to act to go forward. Let me just say this: Nobody can guarantee to the people of Israel or to the people of the United States, or the people of any open, free nation in the world, absolute protection against any terrorist act. We have been victimized by terrorism, the Japanese have been victimized by terrorism and they are essentially a very peaceful society. But we can do more to identify the sources of support, to dry up money, to develop better technical and other means to prevent things from happening. So there is no guarantee here; there are no guarantees in life against this; but we can do a lot better. And, I have thought that the shock of the impact here was so great, not only in Israel but in the other areas, it was high time we showed up and did more about it. That is why I came.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, the type of terror attacks that have been going on in Israel have been going on for quite a while. Why hasn't something like what you have announced today been done quite a while ago, and to what degree was the delay — if you can call it that — a result of opposition from within the Israeli Government?

[Clinton] Oh, I would say not at all on the latter question. I think, frankly, we all thought that the effort....[pauses] First of all, we have been making a lot of extra efforts since — at least I can speak from since I have been President. We have constantly tried to upgrade our capacity to deal with the problems of terrorism, and we have met with some considerable amount of success — both in dealing with terrorism within the United States and in cooperating with our friends around the world. But what I think has happened is, I think that the impact of these incidents coming so close together and being so clearly directed at derailing the peace process and undermining those who want peace — primarily in Israel, but also among the Palestinians and in the region — has had such a shocking impact on other Arab nations, and others around the world, that we were able to put together this meeting at Sharm al-Shaykh in a hurry as a result of their changed sense of urgency.

I know it was difficult for those of you who were there, particularly those of you who came from the United States with little sleep. But if you listened to those 29 separate statements yesterday and you compare that to anything the Arab leaders especially had said before about Israel or about terrorism, there was a remarkable shift there — and so I wouldn't say that we are just trying to do more now and I think we have the capacity to do more. I also think it's obvious that we have to do more to support and insist on greater effect in this in the Palestinian Authority [PA]. I think that's the other thing that hit home to everyone as a result of these events.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, I would like to ask you about Congress' handling of your antiterrorist legislation. Yesterday the House voted to delete a provision debating foreign fund-raising in the United States. You think this bill is on the right track?

[Clinton] Excuse me, you said they voted to delete what?

[Correspondent] Foreign fund-raising in the United States. You think this weakens the bill? Is it on the right track? How do you think they are handling that?

[Clinton] Well, first i think it should have been passed months ago, and I don't know why it wasn't. We have a lot of resources to combat terrorism now; we would like

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the agreement that we announced today, and our clear, unambiguous, longstanding commitment to Israel's security, to maintaining its qualitative advantage in defense capacity. But the discussions we have underway about what we can do from here on out obviously would have to encompass every conceivable contingency, and that is why I urge not to jump ahead. We are going to really have serious discussions about what we should do to strengthen Israel's security and our relationship, but let's not undermine the impact of what we are announcing today, which will do just that. It's very important.

[CNN's Wolf Blitzer] Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, I have a question about Syria for both of you. First of all, Mr. President, you have on two occasions met with President al-Asad. You went to Damascus once, you met with him in Geneva once, even though the State Department continues to include Syria on the official list of countries that support terrorism. Syria's decision not even to send a representative to Sharm al-Shaykh must have been a severe blow to you personally given your courting, if you will, of Mr. al-Asad over the past few years to engage in the peace process. How much of a setback will that be in terms of Israeli-Syrian negotiations? And to you, Mr. Prime Minister, you mentioned that Iran was a capital of terror yesterday, but you didn't mention anything about Syria and its absence from this conference yesterday. Can you continue negotiations with Syria at this point after President al-Asad decided not even to send a representative to Sharm al-Shaykh?

[Peres] Both, to the first question or the previous question and this one, let us take things as seriously as they are. About the Palestinians — I am referring to the editorial in THE JERUSALEM POST — yes, we can mobilize the whole of the Palestinians against us. It is very easy. We can take measures and steps and return to the time of intifadah, push back the PLO to become a terrorist organization, or work gradually with all the pains from a majority of the Palestinians who support the peace to a complete support of peace by the Palestinians. We should not submit to minorities.

Now frankly, about Syria and Iran. There is a similarity because there are headquarters of terrorist organizations in Damascus, but there is also a difference. Syria does not call today, like Iran does, for the destruction of Israel. Syria is negotiating with Israel to look for a peace, which Iran refuses completely. So, we didn't reach yet the necessary agreement, but we don't want to close all the doors. And to be fair, I think that what we have to do is to impress the Syrians with the need to depart from any support or shelter to terror and terrorism, but not to kill the future. I agree that the peacemakers do have a much more complicated road to go. It is not black and white. It is like climbing a mountain: It is difficult, it takes time, you don't reach the peak in one jump. So, what is necessary to reject, we shall reject in clear terms; and I think we shall clearly make it known that we cannot support terrorist headquarters in Damascus and elsewhere. But at the same time, and to the same token, we shall continue the peace effort. Our purpose is not to submit to terror, but to overcome it. When it is necessary, by force, and otherwise by hope.

[Clinton] My answer, Wolf, to your question is: I was disappointed that no Syrian representative came, and I think it was a mistake, but I was not surprised because if you look at the pattern of all these developments since I have been President — and indeed before — President al-Asad tends to deal with these matters with people one-on-one and to have Syria steer a different course. I think it was a missed opportunity for the Syrians and I wish that they had been there, but I do not believe that undermines the fundamental fact that the United States is committed to support Israel if Israel is involved in negotiations and is taking risks for peace, and as long as there are fruitful negotiations going on.

We know there will never be a comprehensive peace in the Middle East until there is a resolution of the differences between Israel and Syria. We also know that if those differences were resolved, the capacity of the Syrians to help to live up to any agreement they might make and to create a more secure region is very considerable. So my position is that negotiations should absolutely continue as long as Israel is prepared to be a part of them, and we should support that.

[NBC's Mark Lavie] With your permission, I would like to relay to you a question I heard several times yesterday from different people. The question was: How can a conference like yesterday's persuade a person who has got a bomb strapped around his middle to turn it off or take it off or not set it off? I think they are asking: Do you have any short-term answers for terrorism or are your solutions only long term?

[Peres] We have a collection of answers, not one, short term and long term. But, again, it is a very simplistic way of putting a question. For example, if we can dry out the sources of finance to this man who goes finally with the bomb, will it help or not? My answer is yes. If we can stop the traffic of arms, will it help or not? It will, yes. I mean, people are confusing.... [pauses] We are fighting on three different fronts in order to create one system and do it systematically: One is domestically, to increase our forces, to fortify our borders, to control the passages, and when necessary to put a closure. It is not instead of the conference in Sharm al-Shaykh.

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them what the facts are? We are perfectly prepared to do everything we can to demonstrate to them what the facts are and obviously we need their help if we are going to really keep turning up the heat on this issue. So it is regrettable, but the Iranians are committed to supporting these terrorist activities and glorifying them totally, ignoring the progress of the last several years, totally ignoring the facts, totally ignoring what is happening. Now, that is just the facts. Every country in the world that deals with them is going to have just wake up in the morning, look in the mirror, and decide whether they are going to stay with the policy they have or change it and whether the policy is based on a principle or some other basis. Thank you.

Israel: Peres' Bureau Rejects Olmert's Criticism of Clinton Tour

TA1303203596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Officials at the prime minister's bureau categorically rejected Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert's assertion that President Clinton was refraining from participating in events in Jerusalem.

The officials told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that the defense establishment had vetoed Clinton's visit to the sites of the recent terrorist attacks in Jerusalem out of security considerations. The officials noted that most of the President's visit is taking place in Jerusalem.

They also expressed surprise that high school students from Jerusalem were not attending the meeting with President Clinton at the Tel Aviv center for the performing arts. The officials told our correspondent that Tel Aviv had also been the site of a serious terrorist attack.

Israel: Beilin on Clinton Meeting, Summit Results

TA1403094496 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 0715 GMT 14 Mar 96

[Interview with Israeli Minister Yosi Beilin by political correspondent Nisim Mish'al at the Prime Minister's Office — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mish'al] Dr. Beilin, before you leave for the cabinet session with President Clinton, what are your expectations from such a meeting?

[Beilin] This meeting is more symbolic than a forum for exchanging information, because there are many participants and sensitive issues that cannot be brought forward in such a large forum. I consider this meeting an extremely rare event, something that happens every 20 years or so. This meeting reflects the United State's faith in the process and its extremely deep commitment to eradicate terrorism. We know that in the final analysis, our real ally in this issue of eradicating terrorism, as well as other things, is the United States. If the United States can help us create a network of regional information and provide new technological means in a bid to prevent more attacks this will be the most significant thing at this point as far as fighting terrorism is concerned.

[Mish'al] Do you believe that this meeting — as well as upcoming meetings with the U.S. delegation — will raise the issue of an Israeli-American memorandum of understanding on the fight against terrorism?

[Beilin] I do not know if this will be raised in this meeting, but I certainly believe there is room for such a thing and that there are chances to attain such a memorandum in a bid to define the points on which we can be very concretely assisted by the only superpower in the world on the issue of terrorism, which for us is the most problematic issue at this point.

[Mish'al] What will Israel have to give in return for such a memorandum of understanding?

[Beilin] I do not think we are talking here about a defense pact in which Israel will indeed have to give something in return. Such a memorandum will mainly deal with the issue of information, and here the traffic will be basically one-sided.

[Mish'al] Turning to Syria, in yesterday's summit the Saudi foreign minister suggested not to close the doors to the Syrians. Is Israel refusing to resume the negotiations with Syria at this stage?

[Beilin] We have not closed the path or the doors and have not said that the talks are being stopped indefinitely. If the Syrians send out positive signals regarding both the content of the negotiations and their willingness to understand that they cannot shelter the terror organizations while negotiating with us, then I see no reason why we shouldn't resume the negotiations with them.

[Mish'al] The joint statement did not mention the closure, but the issue was raised during the news conferences and discussions. Do you believe that after the Sharm al-Shaykh summit the closure will be eased?

[Beilin] I do not believe there is any link between easing the closure and the Sharm al-Shaykh summit. I do not believe any of us believe it is possible to maintain a foolproof closure on agricultural products and food shipments to the territories. I believe that from the humanitarian point of view we will have to occasionally enable them to receive a flow of supplies. For this we do not need any international requests, because this is our

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Jerusalem's status." "Clinton's grave entanglement in the Jerusalem affair casts a shadow on the entire visit" and "did more damage than good."

Writing on page A4 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew, Aluf Ben discusses the "sacred balance between peace and terror" that featured in the speeches made at Sharm al-Shaykh. In a 1,000-word commentary entitled "Sacred Balance," he says: "Every word in Bill Clinton's speeches is the result of complex staff work. He too was careful to maintain the balance. He mourned the victims, but mentioned that Palestinians were also killed in the recent attacks. He said a kind word about 'Arafat for his war on terrorism, and made it clear time and again that the peace process must continue and that there is no other alternative."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew takes a more positive view. A page-2, 1,000-word commentary by Hemi Shalev entitled "Against Terror, For Peace — and For Peres Too" says: Clinton "decided not to settle for the impressive conference in Sharm al-Shaykh and personally came for an unprecedented fourth visit to little Israel. Today and tomorrow [as published] he will shower us with love, sympathy, and warmth, will express his empathy and sorrow, will pat us on the head and promise that everything will be fine. Clinton is the first U.S. President to take part in two elections campaigns simultaneously — his and ours. It is not that Clinton, or the other leaders who attended the conference, have a personal grudge against the Likud or Binyamin Netanyahu. They want to complete the act of peacemaking, which they view as a supreme strategic interest, and they fear that this will not happen with the Likud."

A 600-word commentary by 'Oded Granot on pages 1 and 2 of the same MA'ARIV edition is entitled "Clinton Will Navigate." It addresses the positive moral message sent forth from the conference, noting: "Clinton — not a coalition of Europeans, Egyptians, and Israelis — will navigate the prosecution of the war on Islamic terrorism. He will direct the working team, will provide assistance, means, experts, and what not. This will supplement the bilateral agreement with Israel that he is about to sign." Granot concludes: "One must admit: Without Clinton, the Sharm al-Shaykh conference would have looked completely different."

Israel: Clinton, Peres Said Fooled by 'Arafat

TA1403103096 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Mar 96 p 6

[Commentary by Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg: "Greatest Show on Earth"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Has any democratic country ever witnessed such wild swings in public opinion as Israel during these past weeks? From a lead of 20 percent in the polls enjoyed by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres over his Likud rival Binyamin Netanyahu, we now see Netanyahu nosing ahead. Onetime British premier Harold Wilson declared that "a week is a long time in politics." In Israel a day is a long time.

It would be easy to conclude that Israel's democracy rests on very shaky foundations indeed. But the strains on its body politic are surely unique. The assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin followed by suicide bombings that claimed the lives of 61 bus passengers and pedestrians can hardly be termed small disruptions in the nation's daily life.

It was the repercussions of these events that led three diverse individuals, fearful for their political future, to stage-manage a circus in Sharm al-Shaykh billed as an "anti-terrorism conference" — as though terror was some deadly virus suddenly descended from Mars to threaten life on earth.

We have learned that this grandiose rescue operation was the brainchild of the most vulnerable marl in the trio, Peres, whose lifelong dream of being elected prime minister seems well-nigh shattered. Peres recruited President Clinton to ensure that world leaders would attend, assuring him that he would enhance the President's prestige by openly supporting his bid for reelection back home.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST, Clinton's sole purpose in attending the conference was to ensure the defeat of the Likud in Israel's elections. For a Peres defeat would kill the Oslo accords stone-dead, ruining Clinton's claim to have brought peace to the region — an important facet of his image as an internationally successful statesman and leader.

We have also learned that Clinton's aides are urging him to pardon Jonathan Pollard, convinced that it would be a feather in Peres's cap. It must be done soon, however, they warn. Too near to the elections it might boomerang, appearing as nothing more than a last-minute attempt to influence the Israeli voter.

In the meantime, the media are making a tremendous attempt to get world opinion to believe 'Arafat is working overtime to crush Hamas [Islamic Resistance Move-

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effect that we cannot rely on 'Arafat and cannot trust him to continue the war against terror. Is this indeed an illusion? Is this conference intended only to help the Israeli Government out of the political complications it has run into in the wake of the attacks?

[Beilin] First, if so many world leaders, led by Clinton and Yeltsin, have rushed to Israel's assistance, I would not belittle this. I think such international solidarity is very important. Second, we do not view 'Arafat, Husayn, or Mubarak as our subcontractors. If we make peace with Jordan and demand that it get rid of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] spiritual leadership and Jordan does so, this is not because Husayn is our subcontractor. The same applies to 'Arafat. We reached an agreement with 'Arafat. Some of our demands are that he outlaw Hamas' military groups, detain people, and prevent attacks against Israel. The extent to which this is being done....

[Margalit, interrupting] But are we pleased with the extent of his performance?

[Beilin] Let me say the following: 'Arafat's actions in recent weeks are certainly significant. Things are definitely very different from what went on previously. Earlier, he tried to reach an agreement with Hamas — not without our knowledge — while today we are demanding that he try to hurt Hamas rather than try to reach an agreement with it. I cannot say that everything we would like has already been done, but 'Arafat is surely doing a lot.

[Margalit] Are you disappointed with the maneuvers by Egypt that prevented a clear mention of Iran and Iraq?

[Beilin] Look, even if the conference did not make clear references to addresses, the terror elements themselves referred to the conference and denounced it, of course; therefore, the identity of those at whom the conference was pointing is clear. I believe the conference resolutions are the most that could be attained at a conference attended by 13 Arab countries and Arab elements. It is a great achievement for those fighting for peace and for Israel itself. Therefore, not only am I not disappointed but, on the contrary, I believe Egypt made an effort worthy of appreciation in terms of its hosting the conference and in terms of the resolutions adopted at its conclusion.

Israel: Netanyahu on Peacemakers Summit, Clinton Visit

TA1303164996 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1520 GMT 13 Mar 96

[Interview with Israel's Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by anchor Dan Margalit in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Margalit] Judging by your book "Terrorism: How the West Can Win," you should actually fully support the Sharm al-Shaykh summit.

[Netanyahu] First of all, I welcome any international action against terror. If this was the beginning, it was good, but it was only a very general beginning. I hope it will be more concrete later on. Look, the successful summit, in which I played a part in setting the doctrine on which it was based, was held by the seven Western superpowers in Tokyo in the mid-1980's. It adopted very concrete resolutions: sanctions against specific countries....

[Margalit, interrupting] Very concrete resolutions were also adopted today in Sharm al-Shaykh, as our political correspondent reported earlier. A working group in charge of the war on terror will be set up; the CIA director and the U.S. secretary of state are in Israel.

[Netanyahu] There is a difference between bureaucracies and procedures and the results. I hope these bureaucracies will ultimately bring results. Admittedly, there is a problem of international terror involving countries such as Iran; Sudan, which I believe you do not mention often; and Syria. Pressure, such as economic, political, and other sanctions, must be exerted on such countries.

[Margalit] Shim'on Peres said a few minutes ago that it is unprecedented for so many Arab countries to attend a conference to specifically denounce terror against Israel.

[Netanyahu] First, I am happy this is taking place. Second, I have been to international gatherings — at the United Nations, for example — where terror was categorically denounced. Who did not denounce it? Even Tehran did. The test, however, lies in the implementation. I hope that practical results will be evident later on, primarily through pressure on certain countries. On the whole, however, our problem is not an international one. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] terror does not rely basically on international assistance, although it includes such elements. The main thing is to take direct action against those terrorists, and this calls for freedom of action on our part. If we fail to do that, there may be one or more conferences, and something may come of them in the international sphere, but the most important point is that we should regain the right and freedom to

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Even the ultimatum extended to 'Arafat to crack down on Hamas is an illusion. After all, even after employing mass arrests and mass deportations, Israel could not break this organization. Hamas has repeatedly recovered and filled out its ranks.

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad were not intimidated by the conference, and it would be a mistake to even think that it could make them stop their terrorist activity. The conference was encouraging and demonstrated solidarity, but the real hard work of the war against terror will have to be conducted by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Israel Police, and the Shin Bet.

Israel: Shahal Says U.S. Promises Additional Antiterror Equipment

TA1303190896 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1745 GMT 13 Mar 96

[Interview with Israeli Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal by military correspondent Roni Daniyel, at Ben-Gurion Airport, and anchorman Ya'aqov Eylon, in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Daniyel] Sir, what do the ceremonies, the nice pictures, and the speeches we saw today in Sharm al-Shaykh have to do with the personal security of each and every citizen riding the bus tomorrow morning on their way to school?

[Shahal] Personal security is our responsibility, the responsibility of our security forces. Today's summit is important for several reasons. First, this is the first time that a coalition has been established between Israel and the countries in the region, including eight Arab Muslim states. They reached unanimous decisions, which will include a few practical steps, in a bid to cooperate against terror. Second, the resolution to exchange intelligence data. Third, the unequivocal statement that any country sponsoring or showing sympathy for terrorist organizations will be considered a hostile state against which war must be waged.

[Daniyel] Sir, what we want are practical steps. Will Israel Police and internal security get something out of this summit tomorrow morning?

[Shahal] Indeed, there is a so-called basket that the U.S. President promised to the prime minister. We received some of it, in the form of the explosives-detection equipment. Furthermore, we are now working on a list — incidentally, this is the first time that Israel Police has submitted a list of equipment totaling some $110 million. The Americans have promised to help both us and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] with equipment designed to fight terror. I know about the items requested by the police. We are talking about detection, which will provide us with the means to fight terrorists at once.

[Eylon] There has been a lot of talk — Prime Minister Shim'on Peres mentioned it — about stopping the funds to terrorist organizations. I would like to tell you that we looked into the situation in Europe this afternoon, and it transpired that the Movenpick Hotel in Sharm al-Shaykh is actually owned by a Libyan firm and a Swiss German corporation and that most of the profits from this hotel go to a Libyan firm whose chief executive is Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's brother-in-law. Isn't there a contradiction here?

[Shahal] No, I do not think there is a contradiction. Speaking in the Knesset today, I disclosed several steps being taken by Britain, Germany, and the United States with regard to the funding of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] operations and some nonprofit societies in Israel. The cooperation that has so far been avoided, particularly by several European countries which refused to regard these funds as being directly linked to terror.... [pauses] If the change comes, and they dry up these institutions and prevent the terrorist organizations from getting millions of dollars — a resolution to this effect was passed in the summit — I believe this will undoubtedly be a severe blow to terror. One of the issues we will raise in the cabinet session tomorrow is a detailed proposal on how to fight these money transfers, a request which has so far been ignored by the British. We have been particularly in contact with them, I personally and my colleagues as well.

[Eylon] Minister Shahal, thank you very much.

Israel: IDF To Lift 'Internal Closure' in Territories 15 Mar

TA1303144896 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Mar 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will lift the internal closure on towns and villages in the West Bank for 12 hours starting at 0600 [0400 GMT] on 15 March — this, in order to enable the residents to purchase food and fuel.

Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports that the lifting of the internal closure depends on the developments in the security situation until 15 March. IDF officers emphasized that the closure banning the entry of residents from the territories into Israel will remain in force in its present form.

This morning, the Palestinian Police stopped Gaza Strip residents from reaching the Erez checkpoint. At the

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[Avrech] To implement your plans, would you as prime minister negotiate with 'Arafat directly?

[Netanyahu] If necessary, I would talk with the Palestinian Authority. But with 'Arafat? Hardly.

Israel: Talks With Syria When Aid to Hizballah Halted

TA1403055596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel is making the resumption of the negotiations with Syria conditional on the latter halting its support for Hizballah. This was said by a senior political source to our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

The negotiations with Syria will be discussed today in President Bill Clinton's meetings in Jerusalem, and later in meetings to be held by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross, who will stay behind in Israel together with CIA director John Deutch.

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Nevertheless, I was greatly angered by the minister's statements in which he stressed the "terrorist" nature of the martyrdom-seeking operations which originally came in response to Israeli terrorism. I was displeased, like several other colleagues who were present at the meeting yesterday, with the minister's insistence on not condemning the state terrorism practiced by Israel in a disgusting and insolent manner against the Palestinians despite my colleagues' insistence on such condemnation. The minister proved that his tenure [as ambassador] in Israel continues to influence his statements and performance as information minister. It seems to me, and to several other people, that the information minister is still speaking as an ambassador to Israel and to an Israeli audience.

The minister claimed that the vast majority of the Jordanian people support the so-called peace process and reject the martyrdom-seeking operations. This is sheer allegation. It suffices to draw the minister's attention to the poll conducted by AL-SABIL to make sure that he and the government are at one end while the people are at the opposite end. As a matter of fact, I would accept the results of any poll by an impartial body to be the judge between us as opposers and supporters [of the peace process] so that each of us would stop claiming that the "silent majority" is on his side.

The minister said the U.S. planes will use Jordan as a springboard to overfly southern Iraq and that these planes will come at Jordan's request to train our pilots on how to use the F-16's. Such a statement causes amazement as we still consider the Arabization of the army a national occasion and the termination of the treaty with Britain a national day. Bringing foreign planes and military forces to the homeland on the pretext that others did this before and this is something "familiar" or "normal" is not a patriotic act.

Finally, the minister proposed several controversial issues which we hoped would be the subject of an in-depth dialogue and would be discussed only by him in his capacity as the one who makes the event and the press as well. [sentence as published] We hope that future meetings would take the form of dialogue and not a news conference in which the two sides use fine diplomatic words without frankness, which I for one, did not feel in yesterday's meeting except on a very limited level.

Jordan: Labor Minister—No Objections To Exporting Labor to Israel

JN1303190596 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Mar 96 pp 1, 17

[Report by Majid Jibarah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Minister of Labor Dr. 'Abd-al-Hafiz al-Shakhanibah said that Jordan does not object to providing Israel with Jordanian workers according to official standard procedures. He noted that some employment offices in Jordan are already doing so on their own.

The minister said that the Ministry of Labor recently finished setting up a special system for these offices. Through this special system, workers can be imported or exported based on certain conditions and standards that will be implemented after ratifying the new labor law.

The minister said that if some offices ask for Jordanian workers to work in Israel, then the Ministry of Labor makes it a condition that an approval from the Israeli Ministries of Labor and Interior and from the Jordanian ambassador in Israel be obtained.

He said that the self-rule authority officially asked Jordan to provide it with Jordanian skilled workers to help it establish its departments there. A number of such workers were sent there, but the self-rule authority asked for more.

In another development, al-Shakhanibah said that goods, money, and workers are expected to flow between Jordan and the Gulf states soon, just like they did in the past, now that the obstacles resulting from the Gulf crisis have been removed.

Al-Shakhanibah added that he will discuss the issues of Jordanian workers in the Gulf region and the possibility of sending them back there during the Arab labor ministers meeting due to be held in Cairo on 17 March. This meeting will focus on the need not to link inter-Arab economic relations to any political dispute.

The minister said that a solution to the unemployment problem in Jordan requires increasing and encouraging investment and creating new job opportunities in the country.

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Lebanon: Buwayz Views Summit, Leaves for Arab League Session

NC1303204896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left today for Cairo to attend the Arab League's 105th session, at the foreign ministerial level, which will open tomorrow. The meeting was supposed to begin today but was postponed until tomorrow in view of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit. Before departing, Buwayz made the following remarks at the airport:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] In addition to the ordinary agenda of the meeting, we expect the Sharm al-Shaykh summit to reflect on the Arab League meeting. The ordinary agenda includes Israel's occupation of the south, the Lebanese detainees, and the Arab backing. What we fear is seeing the Arab League forum being used as a stage, reflecting what will have been decided at the Sharm al-Shaykh summit. We fear that the problems will be transferred from Sharm al-Shaykh to the Arab League in Cairo. In all cases, Lebanon's views on the ideas currently being floated are clear. We believe that putting an end to violence in the Middle East in general must take a serious form; namely, by analyzing the reasons for this violence, which are political reasons. They stem first and foremost from Israel's practices, be they on the Palestinian territory or in south Lebanon. Thus, we cannot deal with, or accept to deal with, one aspect of this issue and ignore the main core of the matter. Violence comes in reaction to a specific cause and we cannot discuss the result without first knowing the cause leading to it. Hence, we believe that raising this issue under the name of terrorism only, or as a reaction to the recent events in Israel, portray the matter as if terrorism was one-sided and as if the detention of Lebanese citizens, shelling and destruction of homes, bombings of all types, do not constitute terrorism and do not merit even a Security Council meeting. Lebanon neither advocates nor favors violence in this region. Being the first victim of violence in the region, Lebanon favors any serious summit that comes under the framework of the Madrid peace conference and its mechanism and proceeds first and foremost from the required political depth. If these issues are raised at the Arab League meeting, and we hope there will be no mixing up between Sharm al-Shaykh and the Arab League, we will reiterate Lebanon's firm stand on the need to differentiate between terrorism practiced by organizations outside their territory and beyond their boundaries and rights, and between resistance carried out on the national soil as resistance to the foreign occupation of this soil. Most of the countries meeting in Sharm al-Shaykh have gone through wars, invasions, and occupation. Most of these nations exercised resistance too. We do not believe that now we are in the position to appease Israel only or show understanding for the situation in Israel without taking an overall, serious, and fundamental look at the whole issue.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, will Lebanon and Syria ask the conferees at the Arab League meeting tomorrow to hold an Arab summit conference soon in order to deal with all these developments?

[Buwayz] I don't think that proposing to hold an Arab summit conference in these circumstances is a practical matter. I believe that Arab disagreements still exist and that Arab options are regrettably contradictory. To be realistic, I think that holding an Arab summit within the Arab League context is nearly impossible at this time. This prospect is unlikely and there is no proposal to carry it out.

[Correspondent] Mr. minister, don't you think that the Sharm al-Shaykh conference today, in light of tomorrow's meeting, will exacerbate Arab divisions and hence prolong the [words indistinct]?

[Buwayz] Certainly, in the prevailing political climate the Sharm al-Shaykh conference will not deal with anything except the violence that occurred in Israel. We believe that it will place the Arab countries in an embarrassing position and [divide them] into Arab countries perfectly willing to deal with this issue from a single angle—namely, regarding Israel as a victim—and Arab countries which believe that the current violence is a general phenomenon and is being exercised against more than one group. Israel is carrying out terrorism against more than one Arab group. Hence there was a polarization between the U.S.-sponsored policy of labeling the conference as an antiterrorist conference and the Egyptian policy which has been trying up to this point—fruitlessly I believe—to give the conference a primarily political label and only secondly an antiterrorist label. I think that this embodies the contradictions at the conference. We have warned that extending invitations to such a conference as a reaction to the incidents in Israel at this particular time and in the prevailing psychological climate will make it impossible for those who attend the conference to distinguish between terrorism and resistance. It will render it impossible for the conference to do anything except extend a service to Israel and promote more understanding of Israel's domestic situation. It will also make it very difficult to resist measures that exceed the need to combat terrorism and are actually a form of political pressure that seeks to confuse issues. This was

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courageous stances of Lebanon and Syria for turning down the invitation to attend the conference.

Lebanon: President, Cabinet Comment on Arab League Council Meeting

NC1303203696 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at the cabinet session this afternoon, President Ilyas al-Hirawi called for implementation of Resolution 425. He said that Lebanon will voice its stand on the Israeli attacks and on what is taking place in the region at the Arab League Foreign Ministers' Council meeting in Cairo tomorrow, in which Lebanon will be represented by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

The cabinet stressed that Lebanon differentiates between terrorism and the legitimate rights of defending one's territory and that Lebanon believes that action to find a comprehensive and just solution for the Middle East crisis is the right framework for dealing with the issue of violence and terrorism. It added that ignoring the existing political problem and tackling instead the security problem resulting from the political problem could not achieve the desired goal of the peace process.

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and the peace process and without commitment to their objective.

Under the headline "A Summit To Support Israel," TISHRIN notes the statement by the Israeli prime minister in which he said the objective of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit is to provide support to Israel and its positions and policy.

TISHRIN wonders: Does Israel's repressive policy deserve such an international support, knowing that Israel prevented the achievement of the just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and worked on entrenching its occupation of the Arab territories, tightening its siege on the Palestinian people, and escalating its aggressions against towns and villages in south Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: It was natural for Syria not to attend this summit despite the invitation that was extended to it because Syria has taken it upon itself to defend Arab rights, regain occupied territories, and implement the resolutions of international legitimacy which do not condone Israel's occupation of the others' territory. This is also because participation in the summit means demonstrating support for Israel's policy of occupation, settlement activity, repression, and attacking any legitimate resistance against occupation. It also means ignoring Israel's continued occupation of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria has always condemned terrorism against individuals. It also denounced the terrorism that aims to occupy the others' territory and displace its people. On every occasion, Syria called for differentiating between terrorism and the legitimate national resistance which was exercised by all peoples of the world. Syria also called for convening a conference to define the meaning of terrorism and to stress the people's right to resist aggressors and those who usurp their rights. The Sharm al-Shaykh summit, which was prepared in haste, does not stress the people's right to regain their usurped rights; it supports occupation and condemns the victim. Israel did not hide this understanding of the summit. The Israeli understanding will most probably prevail. Israel will see in this an encouragement to continue to strike the elements of peace and to continue the policy of occupation, repression, and terrorism and deny the others' rights.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria, which is faithful to the peace process and which exerted persistent efforts and made several initiatives to ensure its success, will always stress that occupation is the cause for all tensions, that peace and occupation do not mix, that it will continue to differentiate between legitimate national resistance and terrorism, and that it will never accept anything that harms it national and pan-Arab interests. [passage omitted]

Syria: Damascus Radio Claims Egypt Summit Serves Israeli Interests

JN1303171296 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 13 Mar 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Had Israel believed in just and comprehensive peace, and that peace is the only way for safeguarding its security and the security of the region, it would have withdrawn from the territories it is occupying by force for the sake of peace and out of recognition of, and commitment to international legitimacy and its resolutions that call for withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian Arab people's right to establish their independent state. Had Israel done so, the region would have begun a new era of security and stability.

In order to advance the peace process, the organizers of the Sharm al-Shaykh conference and all international gatherings should deeply consider the real reasons that obstructed the peace process, and provide the chance for all participating parties to take part in objective discussions and agree on the agenda. However, convening the conference in such a haste and in its current formula is not expected to serve the peace process but the Israeli interests at the expense of Arab interests and rights. This was what Israel was eager to emphasize. Israel wants the participants of the Sharm al-Shaykh conference to condemn and fight what it calls terrorism and to ignore its clear practices represented in its adoption of state-sponsored terrorism and the usurpation of Arab rights in countless forms. It wants the world states to bless its occupation of the Arab territories and its refusal to commit itself to international legitimacy and the principles and bases of just and comprehensive peace.

Hence, the only effective decision that can end violence and counter violence and that can advance the peace process is the firm decision to fully commit to the Madrid conference formula and the implementation of resolutions of international legitimacy — namely land for peace. This was the basis of the U.S. initiative and what was called for by the United States and its previous and present administrations, and what formed an international consensus.

Syria was the first country to call for holding an international conference to define terrorism in accordance with international law and the UN Charter. It did so because it condemns terrorism and the killing of innocent people, and because it believes in peoples' right to struggle for freedom and independence.

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: 16 Killed in Government Air Strikes on Taleban Positions

LD1303172996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During the past 24 hours, Afghan government fighter planes have bombed Taleban positions around Kabul in a number of operations.

Afghanistan's Defense Ministry announced today that 16 Taleban militiamen were killed and dozens of others were injured as a result of these attacks.

The attacks have taken place at a time when Afghan government forces are preparing themselves for final operations to drive Taleban forces out of Kabul suburbs. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan: Government Forces, Taleban Continue Exchange of Fire

LD1403092096 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, March 14, IRNA — Heavy exchange of artillery fire between the troops loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, and the Taleban militiamen continued on Wednesday for the fourth consecutive day, said a statement issued by the Afghan Defence Ministry Wednesday night.

According to the statement, at least five militiamen were killed and a number of others injured in the shellings.

The Taleban jet fighters Wednesday violated airspace of the besieged capital of Kabul but were forced to flee by the government ground defense units before dropping their bombs.

Government war planes on Tuesday carried out a number of raids over the Taleban positions at Chahar Asiab, Sang Nebeshteh and several other regions, killing 24 militiamen and wounding tens of others.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Opposition Eases Anti-Government 'Shutdown'

BK1303161496 Hong Kong AFP in English 1458 GMT 13 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, March 13 (AFP) — Bangladeshi business people on Wednesday threatened a sit-in near the presidential palace unless the president meets their demand for an end to the political crisis within 48-hours.

"This is absolutely a ridiculous situation and cannot be allowed to continue further," Salman Rahman, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), told reporters.

Announcing a 48-hour extension of a first deadline set Monday, he said black flags would be hoisted on business associations and market committees across Bangladesh and rallies and marches would be held nationwide.

"We urge upon the president to take steps for a well-contested fresh poll within 90 days," Rahman said, also demanding that controversial elections held on February 15 be declared void.

Bangladesh's two sea ports have been virtually inoperative since the opposition started its "non-cooperation campaign," causing huge backlogs which have crippled foreign trade.

Rahman, also head of the leading BEXIMCO group, said business people wanted to remain out of politics, but have been badly affected by the crisis.

"We are absolutely non-partisan...but as a society we would be destroyed if we fail to react," he said.

His announcement came as Bangladeshi opposition groups eased their anti-government shutdown protests and President Abdur Rahman Biswas sought ways to end the country's protracted political stalemate.

At the same time, sporadic clashes between government and opposition activists in the capital left at least one person dead and nine injured.

Police made several arrests and at least four buses were damaged, police and witnesses said.

From Wednesday afternoon, banks were allowed to operate for two hours, shops and markets for six hours and industries for 13 hours a day, opposition parties said in statements late Tuesday.

The partial relaxation in the five-day-old national strike will continue until further notice, they said.

The strike has been called by the opposition, led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, which has used the stoppages as the latest phase in its two-year effort to oust Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government.

The non-cooperation campaign had forced most vehicles off the streets, and private offices, banks, schools and ports were shut.

Biswas, who held crisis meetings early this week with the opposition and ruling party leaders, has now asked both sides to spell out their positions on setting up a neutral caretaker government to oversee fresh elections.

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In other words, by visiting Tel Aviv Bill Clinton not only created confrontation between the U.S. Government and the heartfelt demands of over one billion Muslims, whose hearts are beating for Palestinian liberation, but he also displayed a maneuver [preceding word spoken in English] of his and the U.S. Democrats' concerns over the failure of the compromised peace process in the Middle East.

It is interesting that by continuing the occupation of the Golan Heights and by emphasizing that Bayt ol-Maqaddas [Jerusalem] will become their capital, the Zionists' leaders were able to act as host to the U.S. President — a host which does not submit to international norms and standards. And this is at a time when several UN resolutions on those cases repeatedly condemned Clinton's hosts. This is why on his return home, Clinton cannot play a winning card before U.S. public opinion in order to win the presidential election.

The visit of the U.S. President to Tel Aviv demonstrates the cooperation between the Democrats and a racist regime which has unlawfully and through various military and terrorist offensives occupied the most sacred lands of the Muslims; and instead of withdrawing from the occupied territories they have established their sovereignty over Palestine by granting so-called self-rule.

Naturally, this cooperation cannot continue for ever due to the vast and extensive rise of the Islamic nations and the increasing political awareness of people in such countries as Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and others.

Iran: Daily Editorializes on 'Peace Summit' in Egypt

LD1403090796 Tehran IRNA in English 0740 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March, 14, IRNA — The morning English-language daily IRAN NEWS Thursday editorialized on just concluded Middle East peace summit, held in Sharm al-Shaykh, Egypt.

According to the paper, the Wednesday summit took place without participation of two major players, Syria and Lebanon.

Stressing that distinction must be made between peace and cease-fire, the editorial wrote that peace without justice is only a cease-fire.

"We seek peace with justice for the Middle East because we believe it is the only way to find a solution to the question of terrorism," maintained the paper.

"It is ludicrous that the Zionists, who are occupying southern Lebanon and officially rejecting U.N. Resolution 425, accuse the Palestinians who struggle to free their homeland of terrorism," concluded IRAN NEWS.

Iran: Commentary Criticizes Outcome of Sharm al-Shaykh Summit

LD1403133696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 14 Mar 96

[Unattributed commentary: "Sharm al-Shaykh Summit Proved To Be a Futile Exercise"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After a long period of propaganda ballyhoo, the Sharm al-Shaykh summit finally concluded work, releasing a statement.

In this one-day long session, the leaders of the Western and Arab countries [were] brought together in order to — as stated by the officials in charge of the session — reach three major objectives. These objectives included extension of support for the Middle East peace process, intensified measures to prevent the activities of the anti-peace elements, and finally condemnation of any kind of terrorist operation at an international level.

As it can be assessed from the final statement of Sharm al-Shaykh summit, the countries participating in this session will form a working group with the partnership of all participants to present necessary advises for the implementation of the summit's decisions.

Apparently the leaders participating in the Sharm al-Shaykh summit have placed identification, trial of the terrorist agents as well as checking the dispatch of military and financial facilities for them in the agenda of their work.

According to political analysts, the preliminary assessment of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit and its final statement demonstrates the point that the participants in the summit lacked a common view concerning personal misinterpretation of terrorism and means to fight this phenomenon.

In addition to that, the main administrators of the summit, namely the United States and the Zionist regime, have failed to bring the compromise talks out of the present deadlock and provide sufficient guarantees for the security of Israel.

The intensified differences between the U.S. Administration and the leaders of the Zionist regime come to light when Ezer Weizman refrained from receiving Bill Clinton at Tel Aviv's airport, and this demonstrates the very reality that Mr. Clinton will return home empty-handed, whereas during the session he expected to form a united front against those who oppose the Arab-Israeli compromise and use it as an ace in the future U.S. presidential elections.

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it can rid itself of some of its domestic problems to some extent.

Aside from Egypt, Washington is also following goals of its own in that conference. On the eve of the presidential elections in the U.S., it is also obvious that the Democrats in the White House regard as highly important the capitulation negotiations in the Mideast. In other words the successful handling of those negotiations and the fruitful results in can bring is viewed as a trump card by [the] officials ruling [the] U.S. right now.

Despite the fact that the Arab-Zionist compromise and consequently introducing the usurper regime of Quds [Jerusalem] as a legitimate country in the Islamic and Arab world has always been a policy of all political quarters in the U.S., this time considering the very weak position of Democrats in next year's U.S. presidential elections, Mr. Clinton is very badly in need of tangible results it can obtain from the so called Mideast peace process. This is why according to many Mideast affairs experts, since the vote of the Zionist constituency in the U.S. of much importance in some states in next year's presidential elections, the holding of the Anti-Terrorism Conference and Clinton's trip to the occupied Palestine and his participation in that conference is a vote-gathering campaign for Democrats aimed at the U.S. Zionists.

It should not be neglected, however, that the Zionist regime's officials, in spite of all their efforts to close Palestine's file in the [word indistinct] framework of Palestinian self-rule, are increasingly facing a more intensified liberation campaign by the Palestinian nation. This is why each of the participants in the conference are following their own interests under the pretext of fighting terrorism. However, whether this conference will only be evaluated as propaganda maneuver by international political circles or will have any significant effects on the security and stability of the region, is a question whose answers are already at hand.

It is certain that until the Washington-Tel Aviv axis will not come to grasp with the realities of the region and continue with their policy of violating the rights of the Palestinian and Lebanese nations to achieve their own ends, the Middle East will never see any peace and stability. This is because until [for as long as the] occupation is in place, Palestinian blood is unjustly shed and Lebanese [word indistinct] their every day life under Zionist shelling, the truth of defense and struggle will impose itself on the aggressors, a defense and struggle that international conventions and especially the UN Charter have considered it to be the natural right of any nation fighting against occupation. This is the reason that libel of terrorism could never be capable of dissipating the sacredness of confrontation with the Zionist usurpers of al-Quds, Palestine and Lebanon either.

Iran: AP Cited on 'Continuing' Bahrain Arrests

NC1303115496 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Mar 96 p 1

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Opposition groups claimed Sunday [10 March] that about 30 people have been detained by security forces in the last five days in a continuing crackdown against suspected dissidents.

The Bahrain Freedom Movement, in a statement faxed to the ASSOCIATED PRESS from London, named 29 people it said have been arrested in Shiite Muslim villages around Manama since March 5.

It said high school students staged street demonstrations Wednesday through Saturday in six villages near Manama.

Another opposition group, the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, has claimed that 320 had been arrested in a government sweep in the last three weeks.

The opposition has claimed the crackdown was designed to keep the lid on possible unrest during a series of major business conferences in Manama, a key regional financial center and a U.S. Navy base.

Iran: U.S. Effort To Internationalize Beijing-Taipei Crisis Seen

NC1403105796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 14 Mar 96

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Efforts by America's tension-seeking diplomatic apparatus to internationalize the Beijing-Taipei crisis have taken on new dimensions during the past two days. The U.S. aircraft carrier "Nimmetz" joining the "Independent" near the Taiwanese coast has caused great concern among regional political circles, such that the Chinese, who see their national security under serious threat, have stated that this attempt shows the Americans paving the way to encourage Taiwanese officials to move toward independence.

Political observers believe that America's instigatory acts have worsened the situation in the region, especially in the Taiwanese waterway, such that the slightest

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the massacre, the bloodshed, and the destruction of the innocent Afghan nation.

Our objective is not to extend complete support for Mr. Rabbani's rule in Afghanistan. The truth is that as long as a logical and acceptable framework for a just solution of the Afghan problem has not been found and an appropriate peace program that can be put into place the day after Rabbani steps down is absent, merely insisting on his stepping down is nothing but a spiteful attitude toward the crisis in that country — an attitude that will not help promote the stability and tranquility of the oppressed people of Afghanistan.

Iran: Commentary Urges End to Civil War in Afghanistan

NC1403094696 Tehran SALAM in Persian 4 Mar 96 p 12

[Commentary by M. Veysi: "Lost Opportunities in Afghanistan and a Nebulous Future"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The President of Afghanistan, Borhanoddin Rabbani, arrived in Tehran yesterday, Sunday, [3 March] for talks and meetings with our country's officials.

Borhanoddin Rabbani's visit to Tehran comes at a time when the current government in Afghanistan has been trying hard for the past few months to resolve the differences among the morass of political and military groups there and to halt the civil war that has continued unabated for quite a few years, bringing nothing but massacres and devastation to the oppressed Afghan people.

Some political experts think that President Rabbani's visit to Tehran a political move by the Kabul administration to show how stable it is. On the other hand, the visit shows his appreciation for Tehran's mediation of the Afghanistan crisis, as well as Iran's support for the legitimate Kabul government.

There is no doubt that in today's circumstances, when the Kabul government has succeeded in motivating groups such as Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], and the paramilitary units of General Dostam to cease hostilities against the government, the situation is now favorable for terminating the war and dousing the flames all over the country. However, in order to do this, some other conditions are also necessary.

First and foremost, the Rabbani administration and groups such as the Hezb-e Eslami, led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, should strive to preserve existing agreements so that conditions exist for future cooperation as well. At this juncture, if all the Afghan groups were to reflect on how they have missed the lost golden opportunity for national reconstruction now that the foreign occupationist forces have left and the attendant devastation ended, they would see that the destruction due to the civil strife that has ensued is far more horrifying and appalling.

Another point that should be borne in mind in order to reconcile all the groups is the necessity to follow the conventions governing political negotiations. No doubt every group that joins the peace talks in Afghanistan should concentrate more on "respecting the rights of others and willingness to lower its own expectations" than concerns about losing or winning.

The Rabbani government, as well as all the dissident groups, should realize that the protracted crisis and the prolongation of the fratricidal war in Afghanistan in recent years has been due to each group's attempt to eliminate the others and gain absolute power. If all the Afghan groups today were to ponder the bitter experience of four years of futile internecine civil strife, they would easily conclude that no single group, much less a coalition of political and military splinter groups, is able to eliminate its rivals and assume power.

Hence, it is essential for all the dissident groups to forego their aim to "topple the government." The government should also show in practice that, contrary to popular opinion, it is not seeking to usurp and monopolize the government or impose a Tajik-oriented administration upon the 200-year-old Pashtun government in Kabul.

Finally, governments of Afghanistan's influential neighbors should heed the fact that the most principled policy that can be followed in Afghanistan is one that the Afghan people participate in, so that a collective indigenous solution can be found to end the war and the fratricide. The experience resulting from the multifaceted onslaught by the various groups—especially the Taleban group's approach to Kabul's doorstep—proves that if they are unable to find a solution based on negotiations and consensus, not only will those who have set up camps and military bases inside Kabul not achieve their goals, the Kabul government will also not see a moment of peace.

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terminology of terrorism by offering a known definition of the word. The creation of anti-Iranian atmosphere takes place in line with that. Iran is the steadfast pillar of opposition to the compromise policy. No policy of compromise or terror has ever shaken that pillar.

Recently U.S. political authorities have put their European counterparts through the mangle in order to make them put pressure on and isolate Iran because of its material and spiritual support for sensitive operations! But, just as with past accusations, no documents have been presented. Only illogical stances have remained constant. Undoubtedly these disparate stances will be presented to the European powers in a cohesive form at the Sharm al-Shaykh meeting. The EU has so far not submitted to U.S. pressures to boycott Iran politically and economically. If that principled policy continues Sharm al-Shaykh will turn into a place of diplomatic tension between America and that Union. The anti-terrorist! conference, also, will be relegated to history since it has been called by the main supporters of terrorism.

[As for] those regional Arab governments which have received the Cairo and Washington invitations, the emphasis has been on the sides which do not submit easily to the compromise policy: Syria and Lebanon; or those governments which have not shown the necessary speed in total support for that process: Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and... [ellipsis as published]

Praise for compromise with the Zionist regime and boasting against the so-called terrorist operations and attack against the policy of resistance constitute the axis of gatherings in Egypt. The principal convenors of the conference seek to drag the silent Middle Eastern players inside the desired axis through persuasion or threat.

Even if hidden ties turn into open bonds within the framework of this gathering, will the policy of resistance be undermined?

Iran: IRAN NEWS on Distrust of West's Claims To Combat Terrorism

LD1303195296 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 9 Mar 96 p 2

[Unattributed article: "The West is Not To Be Trusted"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following a series of bomb blasts in occupied Palestine and an article written by an IRNA staff member, certain unexpected developments took place last week.

Officials of the Islamic Republic have, time and again, reiterated that Iran has had no involvement in the blasts. But despite the lack of any evidence to support the West's and Israel's accusations, France, echoing the baseless propaganda of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher against Iran, summoned the Iranian ambassador in Paris and cancelled a planned visit of Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi to that country.

One should pay attention to the following facts before reaching any conclusions:

A — Iran does not trust Western statements regarding the West's desire and determination to combat terrorism. France's anti-terrorist utterances, for example, do not coincide with Paris' policies and actions concerning the terrorist MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization]. The crimes committed by this terrorist organization against Iran and its people are no secret, but despite all its horrendous crimes, the MKO is given the warmest welcome in the so- called land of 'liberty, equality and fraternity'.

If there was any logic behind France's summoning of the Iranian ambassador just because of an article in IRNA, then the same logic should be applied to Paris's representative in Tehran and the French ambassador should be sent back to Paris because of that country's support for MKO terrorists.

This and several other factors prove that this week's scheduled anti-terrorism summit in Egypt is only a Western political game.

B — Iran has repeatedly declared its position on the Middle East peace process. The Islamic Republic opposes the on-going peace process because it is unjust and totally ignores the rights of the Palestinian people. But Tehran's opposition to the process should not be interpreted as support for terrorism. The Iranian opposition is simply a declaration of its policy on the subject.

If the Americans really want the peace process to succeed, they should help formulate a peace plan which is just, meaningful and acceptable to the majority of the Palestinians.

C — Unfortunately, despite the fact that Europe has made great strides in achieving economic independence, it still relies on the United States and its mass media which are dominated by the Zionists.

Considering the above, a certain faction in Iran is bound to conclude that there is no longer any distinction between US and European policies, and the EU is no longer in a position to follow its own self interests by making independent policies. This new development, the faction believes, should be taken into consideration

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One of these correspondents, who had visited Iran earlier and was even granted the opportunity to interview President Hashemi- Rafsanjani, is CNN correspondent Christiane Amanpour. In view of her previous record, it was not wise to grant her a visa to come to Iran again.

Amanpour is an element reared by the Zionists and a pawn of the U.S. Intelligence Agency, CIA. During here recent visit to Tehran, she has tried to serve her Zionist masters in the best possible manner. By preparing vengeful and fabricated reports, she tried to implement the policies dictated to her in Washington and Tel Aviv, that is, to portray Islamic Iran as a supporter of terrorism. She also tried to influence other correspondents through her biased and vindictive reports.

In connection with the recent bomb explosions in the occupied Palestine, she attributed some fabricated statements to Islamic Iran and and the Iranian press, which we should not easily overlook.

It is not yet clear what sort of response the Islamic Guidance Ministry has shown in the wake of this fabricated report, but it is necessary to demonstrate a serious and decisive response by promptly deporting her from the country. It might be said that on the eve of the elections such measures are not expedient and would create an adverse climate in CNN and other news agencies. This is a passive attitude and can be challenged for the following reasons: First, she has shown that she has taken advantage of the hospitality provided by the Islamic Guidance Ministry to prepare biased and vindictive reports against Islamic Iran. Second, a decisive response of the Islamic Guidance Ministry through deportation of a biased reporter would be a lesson to other correspondents not to take advantage of the Ministry's good intentions.

If the Islamic Guidance Ministry were to adopt a more decisive response, she could be put on trial for her false claims. However, by considering Islamic compassion, her expulsion would be the least acceptable response of the Ministry.

It is a common occurrence that whenever the United States and Zionists fail to find an answer to their predicament, in order to find a cover up for their incompetence, they attribute every incident to the Islamic Republic of Iran right from the start. Such allegations, while giving them some excuse to blame others for their own peace of mind, turns the world public opinion against Islamic Iran. However, this method has been repeated so often that it no longer deceives anyone. The method no longer helps America and the Zionists, who are symbols of state-sponsored terrorism.

In view of the fact that the American journalists pursue covert operations for CIA in their overt role as reporters — and this was admitted by the U.S. Congress recently — it seems that the Islamic Guidance Ministry has unwittingly given a visa to a CIA pawn, Christiane Amanpour. If the Ministry's objective is to increase the coverage of the Majles elections by foreign reporters, inviting a CIA agent defeats the objective.

Iran: Editorial Praises Tehran-Moscow Relations

LD1303162296 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran, Russia Time-Tested Allies"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is in Moscow to boost bilateral ties. For a long time Moscow was considered Iran's unfriendly neighbor during the Cold War era. However, the disintegration of the former Soviet Union and formation of the CIS created a new atmosphere for closer ties between Iran and its northern neighbors.

After the disintegration of the Soviet Union some of the officials in Moscow moved too close to Washington causing reservation in the capitals of Russia's neighbors. But soon Russian officials realized that the U.S. was not a reliable ally. The U.S. bullying went to the extent that White House openly poked its nose in internal and external affairs of Moscow.

Having realized the dangers of the U.S. interference in the affairs of his country, the new Russian Foreign Minister, Yevgeniy Primakov, right after assuming office, pledged to place more emphasis on ties with the Middle Eastern and Asian countries.

Indeed the dependence of Russia and Asian countries on each other is reciprocal because they are natural allies.

Iran-Russian dependence is even more natural because of various reasons. In the first place both the countries share the objective of maintaining stability on the southern fringes of the former Soviet Union. Secondly, the complementing nature of their economies call for closer ties between them. Moreover, both Iran and Russia are opposed to the U.S. hegemonistic policies in the region.

Our Russian friends should bear in mind that the West has spared no effort in humiliating us as Asians: They have refused to admit Russia to the G-7, they have denied Russia a membership to the WTO [World Trade Organization] and they still consider it a threat to the security of Europe.

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in Tavildarreh, and the non-entry of government forces into the areas under control of the opposition as the main conditions for the extension of the Tehran-brokered cease-fire.

The logical outcome of this move would be the rejection of all kinds of politico-military moves which could create serious obstacles in the path of the solution to the Tajikistan crisis. In any case, the role of regional countries and international organizations cannot be ignored in the context of a political solution to the Tajikistan crisis. Therefore, some observers view the continuation of the crisis or the need for its solution at this juncture within the framework of Moscow's policies in the region.

Preventing the national and Islamic groups from attaining power in Central Asia along with a change in Moscow's strategy toward the CIS countries are among the reasons for this state of affairs. Thus, it appears that new equations have arisen before Moscow for the success of the new strategy and in the nature of the management and solution of the crisis and the problems in the region.

Iran: Rejected Majles Candidate Protests BBC 'Distortion'

LD1303183896 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 9 Mar 96 p 21

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Esfahan, March 8 (IRNA) — Iranian MP in the fourth Majles Hasan Kamran whose candidacy was rejected for the fifth parliamentary elections, here on Thursday [7 March], protested against distortion of realities by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

The BBC reported in its Persian service on Wednesday night the rejection of Kamran's candidacy has angered and disappointed people of Esfahan.

Kamran told IRNA that according to a legal procedure he was informed that it would be convenient for him not to launch an election campaign for the next term of Majles, but that there exists legal channels to follow up the issue.

He said, "I respect the ruling because the jurisprudents at the Council of Guardians are fair and pious."

He said, "No doubt, the BBC is not sympathetic to the Iranian people and is seeking to dissuade people from turning out in the Friday elections."

He said since the rejection of his candidacy, no illegal gathering or a protest rally has been held and this showed the people's sense of responsibility towards fulfilling their religious duties.

Kamran said he wanted his obedience to the leadership of the Islamic revolution and all-out support of the people, officials and candidates be heard by the world, including the BBC.

Iran: Majles Candidates Present Views

LD1303183496 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 6 Mar 96 p 7

[Unattributed Article: "Candidates Express Views as Election Day Nears"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, March 5 (IRNA) - Millions of Iranians are expected to go to the polls Friday [8 March] for electing candidates of their choice for the fifth Majles.

On Monday afternoon, three contestants, representing different parties, offered their personal comments on questions posed to them by IRNA reporters.

Excerpts of the interview:

Mrs Rafat Bayat of the Association for Defending Revolution's Values' said, the fifth Majles must not exploit the Majles forum to engage in "give and take" business dealings. The practice of brave and rational confrontation (in the form of debates) should find its way to the Majles. "The Majles is not a forum for trial and error. the people did not institute this revolution to win their daily bread, but on the other hand, they should not now have to go to an extreme agony to get that bread. A healthy atmosphere should be created that will be conducive to public participation in the economic affairs of the nation. The social environment will have to encourage investment, the civil code of Iran will have to be amended with women being guaranteed their constitutional rights. The third and the fourth Majles simply overlooked those propositions..."

Morteza Nabavi of Association of Struggling Ulema maintains that "constitutionally, the Majles is responsible to monitor the operation of the government. The constitution has even anticipated such devices as questioning public officials interrogating or impeaching cabinet ministers, the president, and enquire into the operation of the three branches of the government.

"The idea of monitoring by the Majles is to ensure social, economic and financial discipline within the Iranian community. As long as the Majles deputies are pious and brave, they will not tend to be business brokers and if those conditions are met the Majles will certainly develop into an entity calling for the rule of law.

"The association has as its motto social equity, national development, popular participation and overseeing. But

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of our election posters was prevented by means of bureaucratic obstacles. In view of all this, it would have made no sense to continue with these candidacies.

[Kermani] But it was obvious that you would be prevented from running a fair election campaign, so why did you nominate candidates?

[Yazdi] Every Iranian has the right to run in a parliamentary election. We claimed our right. Public opinion has realized that it is the authorities that impede election candidates. This was both a test and effort to implement some of the liberties we believe in.

[Kermani] Do you not see any progress? The press has given you very exhaustive, and at times very objective, coverage. You were not prevented from talking to Iranian or foreign journalists and telling them your views. Nehzat has returned to the political stage.

[Yazdi] Oppositionist parties like Nehzat exist only as a political potential in Iran, not as actual political forces. Nehzat is on the way to becoming such a force. Why were our four candidates, whom the Election Commission had approved, barred from the elections? The reason is the great echo that the news of our legalization caused. That made the rulers uneasy. A member of the Election Commission summoned us and demanded from us a positive stance vis-a-vis the doctrine of the "Primacy of the Jurists" (Welayat-e faqih) established by Khomeyni. But we refused.

[Kermani] The groups participating in the elections profess very diversified political programs and wage heated debates in public. Is this the start of genuine pluralism?

[Yazdi] These groups all belong to the system, they all feel bound by certain principles. They were part of the government for the past 16 years, and are in various ways responsible for the present state of affairs. Not one of them can lay all the blame on the shoulders of the others. But still there are differences between them. For example, the right-wing Traditionalists are an extremist group that does not believe in any form of freedom and democracy. In their political conduct, they resort to extremely crude methods. Members of this group are responsible for the situation inside prisons. On the economic front, they represent the interests of the merchants and great capital, and are opposed to industrialization. As for their religious views, they are very dogmatic and legalistic.

They have asserted themselves in many spheres. Many of the country's power centers are in their hands — the Committees, many of the funds, the Culture Ministry, the Iranian news agency, and television. Even the most faithful supporters of the current order are increasingly disgusted with the fanatical way in which these people oppose any opinion and any book that does not comply with their line.

[Kermani] Do you give the Technocrats, who pursue a decidedly different policy, especially in economic and cultural issues, any chance of success?

[Yazdi] The Technocrats were and remain a part of the present system, therefore they find it difficult to convince people. They have extended feelers to reformist forces, but they did this too late and with insufficient determination. If, for instance, they had rendered their support to the presence of other parties in the elections months sooner, the election result might have been different.

Here we are dealing with a very dangerous point. The right wing does not merely want to enforce a particular policy. It wants to change the system. They think that because there is a religious leader, there is no need for a state president any more. The president should become something like the head of the religious leader's bureau, his executive organ. The ministers would then be directly answerable to the leader. With such a change the country would head closer and closer to disintegration.

The problem faced by the Technocrats is that President Rafsanjani is responsible for the failure of the economic programs. Therefore they are responsible as well, for they started them. That is making the Technocrats weaker. The right-wing is heaping the blame on the Technocrats.

However, both camps are interested in good relationships with the west. The slogans may differ, but the Conservatives are backed by the capital of the merchants and the bazaars. They want to calmly sell the oil, and spend the oil revenues on goods imports. The Technocrats differ from the Conservatives inasmuch as they want to encourage foreign investment in Iran.

If they succeed in exerting their influence, which no doubt they have in many spheres, to such an extent that they gain a parliamentary majority and prevent Nateq Nuri, a Traditionalist, from being reelected parliamentary speaker, then one can assume that Nateq Nuri will not be the next president.

[Kermani] What is your impression of the elections?

[Yazdi] In Iran there is a saying: The great mountain rumbles and rumbles, and in the end only a tiny crater emerges. The elections were not free and not fair. I do not think elections like this can help the government's image.

[Kermani] Do you regret that you took part in them?

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According to our correspondent, on Wednesday, only the IRNA news agency contacted the editor-in-chief to ask for his comments on the closure of SALAM. The editor-in-chief responded that he had only the ruling in his possession, that SALAM would be suspended on Wednesday and Thursday and that there had not been a mention of any particular article in the paper, nor was a legal reason for the suspension given.

According to this report, of the domestic newspapers, only IRAN and IRAN NEWS contacted SALAM's editorial office on Wednesday. And among foreign newspapers and agencies, Japan's YOMIURI [SHIMBUN], Japanese NHK television, CBS television and the state-owned BBC radio tried hard to get more information on the closure of SALAM, but apart from saying that the paper had been suspended for two days, nothing more could be added. [passage omitted]

Iran: SALAM Readers Discuss 2-Day Ban

LD1303172696 Tehran SALAM in Persian 11 Mar 96 p 3

[From the "Readers' Column"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear SALAM, could you please print the following about the two-day closure of your newspaper?

First, they did well to ban your paper for two days. You were trying to undermine the month-long efforts of the government, which was trying to hold proper elections.

Second, the ban will eventually increase your circulation and will create an artificial popularity for you.

[Dear SALAM] You said so many things that you were not supposed to say, until they closed your paper. Now it is proved to you, too, that there is no freedom in this country. Only the ruling faction enjoys a limited degree of freedom and the rest of the population play no role. They even did not show mercy upon you, who were a member of their clique. Now what do you think, do we have any freedom in this country?

[SALAM] Yes there is some freedom, but it is not perfect and it is not guaranteed. We must, therefore, strive daily until we come closer to perfect freedom. We must also increase our participation in the political arenas, so that we can guarantee the evolution and survival of this freedom.

Iran: Daily Gives Background of Closure of SALAM

LD1303154096 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 96 pp 1, 14

["SALAM Tried To Put Leader's Impartiality in Elections Into Question"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — The Persian daily SALAM was not published for two consecutive days this week.

An informed source at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance told the TEHRAN TIMES that the special prosecutor for the clergy, Hojjat ol-Eslam Gholam Hoseyn Mohseni, on Tuesday [5 March] informed the managing director of the daily of the ruling of the special court on banning the paper.

According to the Press Law enacted by the Majles, the prosecutor can temporarily stop a paper for a maximum period of ten days.

Because one of the parties was a clergy, according to rule the case should have been referred to the special court for the clergy.

An informed source at the court told the TEHRAN TIMES that reasons for banning the paper were explained to the managing director at 11 am Wednesday.

It is said that the reason for banning the paper was due to its attempt to play down a statement of the office of the Leader of Islamic Revolution in its Thursday edition.

After printing a statement of the leader's office stating that the leader would not take part in rejecting or confirming the eligibility of any candidate, the paper said that one of the members of the office had taken part in the Guardian Council's sessions on evaluating the eligibility of the candidates.

Over the past 45 days, the daily attempted twice to put the impartiality of the leader in election into question.

In its 20 January issue the daily made the same attempt. Iranian officials have been keen to ensure that all officials remain impartial during the elections and instructed executive and judicial bodies to watch the activities of the officials carefully and prevent violations.

The managing director of the daily, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Musavi Khoeiniah, talking to IRNA said that the paper will appear on news stands on Saturday, March 9.

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sources of capitalism and trusts. When caricaturists wanted to draw the face of a capitalist, they would draw the picture of a bazaari! with a big belly, a skull-cap on his head, and worry beads in his hand...

Of course there is no doubt that one of the roots of capitalism was and is in the traditional bazaar and that some of the bazaaris only think of profits and how to amass wealth. But the point is that this is only part of the issue, and today the main center of capitalism in its true sense has moved from the traditional bazaar. Today's modern capitalists not only do not wear a skull-cap, but they are among the best dressed people in society. They no longer have a big bellies, but develop nice bodies with the access they have to the most modern saunas, the best gym instructors, and the best health facilities. Today's capitalists no longer gather in the bazaar cells, the hamams, and the mosques. They spend the hot summer days on the beaches in Hawaii and the cold winter months on Switzerland's ski slopes. They live in mythical palaces and they and their children drive the most expensive cars.

With the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the big capitalists did not see a way to infiltrate the new power structure and continue their plundering, felt threatened because of their ugly past, and preferred to flee. Many of them went to America and Europe, while some of them—people like the Sabet Pasals, the Elqanyans, the Khorrams, and so on—were arrested and punished for their acts.

Unfortunately, after the end of the war and the beginning of the era of reconstruction, which was and is an inevitable necessity, some incorrect economic policies coupled with the naivete of some officials, as well as their unjustifiable tolerance, created the grounds for the formation of capitalism, although not to the same degree as in the past. And the capitalists' footprints can be seen, more or less, in the country's economy. Even some of the fugitive capitalists have returned. In this atmosphere, where one of the most necessary steps is to cut off these peoples' arms and prevent their activities and, at a time when the foreign mass media is resorting to propaganda ploys and trying to erase the traces of the capitalists so the people won't see them, unfortunately some political processes at home—which also insist on being portrayed as anti-capitalist!—are naively repeating the same demagogic analyses and assessments made by the centers of capitalism. They are also giving a wrong address for the capitalists and the centers of capitalism. And with these inexpert analyses, not only are they failing to take any steps against capitalism, but—by giving a wrong address—they are wiping out the footprints of the modern capitalists and are actually serving them. All this is happening because in our Islamic society, due to the existence of Islamic beliefs and in view of the fact that Islam is, by nature, anti-capitalist, the modern capitalists need secrecy more than anything in order to exist and operate. And such inexpert analyses and wrong addresses help to do this.

Naturally in some cases the footprints of capitalists can also be seen in the traditional bazaars. But the point is that the main source of capitalism and the true location of the big capitalists moved a long time ago from cells in the bazaars to modern and luxurious buildings in the cities' rich neighborhoods. And those who still attribute capitalism to the bazaar cells and consider the symbol of capitalism to be the "big merchants" are living in the Qajar era and are several decades behind in their analyses of capitalism.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Antiterrorist Accord With Egypt 'Surprise' to Authorities

BK1303102496 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 13 Mar 96 p 12

[Article by Ansar Abbasi: "FO Surprised Over Pak, Egypt Pact on Terrorism"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The reported signing of an anti-terrorist agreement between Pakistan and Egypt a couple of days ago in Cairo, was a surprise for the authorities here.

All the relevant agencies in the federal capital are in dark about the nature and contents of the accord signed by Egyptian Interior Minister Hassanel Alfi and his Pakistani counterpart Naseerullah Babar. Additional Director General Federal Investigation Agency Rehman Malik is also accompanying the interior minister who is presently on an official visit to Cairo.

The most relevant agencies — Foreign Office [FO] and Interior Ministry — were even taken by surprise by the reported signing of the agreement. Reports said under the agreement the two countries pledged to act against terrorist activities and exchange information about terrorist groups. The protocol, as the reports say, also contains a clause on extradition of criminals.

These reports were published in almost all the major newspapers Sunday last quoting Egypt's Middle East News Agency.

Sources in FO told THE NEWS that the interior minister could not sign any agreement on his own. These sources, however, said the Egyptian Government has recently desired to sign an agreement with Pakistan on the same subject.

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lem b ·g faced by the people of occupied Kashmir. Reac ·g to reports on the subject, a Foreign Office spokesman told a weekly news briefing in Islamabad today that these renegade Kashmiri leaders have no locus standi in negotiating the Kashmir dispute with the Indian Government. He pointed out that the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, the true representative body of the Kashmiri people, has declared that these Indian stooges have no right to talk on behalf of people of Kashmir. They do not enjoy support of the people.

The spokesman also expressed grave concern over disappearance of a senior advocate and human rights activist, Jalil Andrabi, who was reportedly arrested by Indian security forces.

Pakistan: Foreign Minister Goes to Tashkent To Discuss Afghanistan

BK1403054796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has gone to Tashkent where he will hold talks with Uzbek leaders on the Afghan situation. A Foreign Ministry spokesman told Radio Pakistan's representative that the foreign minister's visit constitutes a part of Pakistan's efforts to hold consultations with neighboring countries on the issue. He said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan hold identical views on Afghanistan. The foreign minister is expected to visit Ashgabat as well.

Pakistan: Minister Denies Charges of 'Extrajudicial Killings'

BK1403132696 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 14 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for law and justice, Mian Raza Rabbani, has said the government believes in the supremacy of law and there have been no extrajudicial killings in the country. He was replying to points of order raised by opposition members, Makhdum Javed Hashmi, Mr. Dost Mohammad Faizi, Khwaja Mohamma Asif, Mian Ejaz Ahmad Shafi, Syed Javed Ali Shah, Mr. Mahmud Khan Achakzai, and Hafiz Mohammad Taqi, about reported killings of members of Altaf Group. He said the members equally share concern expressed by the members and pointed out that as and when apprehensions were expressed that certain extrajudicial killings have taken place, in majority of cases the government responded immediately and instituted judicial inquiries, particularly in case of Karachi. He regretted that no one turned up or the people blaming extrajudicial killings refused to turn up before the inquiry committee. He said as far as the latest incident in Karachi [in which Altaf Group activist Naim Sheri was killed], a captain of Rangers received bullet injuries, including one in the chest, during the encounter. He said the government has time and again shown its political will to preserve and protect human rights. It has provided access to international organizations to examine the situation in Pakistan and this is unprecedented in the history of the country. The opposition members through points of order claimed that there have been extrajudicial killings and violation of human rights and wanted that the house should be taken into confidence. They also wanted the house committee to look into such reports.

The Senate was informed during question hour today that a number of steps have been taken to improve law and order situation in the country. In reply to a question by Syed Mohammad Jawad Hadi, the house was told that the measures include organization of patrolling, raid and search operations, and establishment of special courts, and surveillance. A high-powered committee headed by the interior minister has also been set up to take necessary remedial measures to solve the problem of over 1 million illegal immigrants in Pakistan, mostly in Karachi. The house later adjourned to meet again on Sunday morning.

Pakistan: Opposition To Contact President on 'Caretaker Government'

BK1403101696 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 14 Mar 96 p 1

[FRONTIER POST Bureau report: "Opposition To Contact President on Caretaker Government: Gohar"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Deputy opposition leader, Gohar Ayub Khan Wednesday recognised the need to establishing political contacts with President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari in order to ensure formation of a caretaker government before the general elections, which, he said, would be held soon.

"But we are not in a hurry. We will develop communication with the president gradually", said the deputy opposition leader while talking to a group of newsmen in the opposition chamber.

He opined that political developments in the country were showing that elections would be held soon and constitutionally only the president was empowered to form a caretaker government before elections. "One thing should be clear that the PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)] will not participate in the coming general elections if they are held under the prime ministership of Benazir Bhutto", said Gohar.

"A new political trend of holding general elections under caretaker governments has emerged in the South Asian

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operation conducted in the east in the past few weeks. Reports from the area say that a large number of Sinhalese troops were killed and some military hardware was seized during the attack. The Sri Lankan Defense Ministry has announced that more than 20 soldiers were killed in today's attack. It has been reported that among those killed, 13 belonged to Special Task Force [STF] units. Precise reports on the number of Sri Lankan soldiers killed and the amount of weaponry seized in the attack could not be obtained.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Government reports that its forces bombed and destroyed an LTTE airstrip. This report says that an improvised LTTE airstrip near Point Pedro was the target of the Air Force bombing.

Government troops raped a housewife at Valaichchenai locality in Batticaloa District. This outrage was committed on International Women's Day on 8 March. Two military hoodlums went to her house while her family members were away and committed this dastardly act. The woman is undergoing treatment at Batticaloa Hospital.

Sri Lankan troops conducting a search operation in Polonnaruwa locality arrested 98 Tamil civilians, including seven women. These people are being detained and subjected to intimidation and torture under the pretext of interrogation. Meanwhile, 14 Tamil civilians arrested and detained by Sri Lankan troops in Palali have been released with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. The ICRC took these 14 people into its custody and brought them to Point Pedro from Kankesanturai.

Pucara planes belonging to the Sri Lankan Air Force resorted to a bombing raid in Mullaitivu District. The raid took place around 0940 yesterday. There are no reports of any damage.

The LTTE attacked an STF unit on patrol in Amparai District a few days ago. There are no reports on the losses suffered by the Sri Lankan side.

There was a confrontation between the LTTE and Sri Lankan troops on patrol in Mulai. There are no further reports on the confrontation.

The LTTE has been carrying out sporadic attacks against the Sri Lankan troops who are occupying Weligama following its capture. In view of these incessant minor attacks, the Sri Lankan troops are constrained to remain in their barracks. Meanwhile, the military has gone to the extent of resorting to missile attacks against the areas it has captured.

The aspiration of the Tigers is the Tamil Eelam motherland!

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